



ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 10:00AM
via Zoom

GUEST SPEAKER WALTER WOODWARD

Connecticut State Historian

“EVENTS THAT SHAPED OUR LIVES”

Walter Woodward is Connecticut’s current State Historian, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, narrator/producer of *Today in Connecticut History* and author of the “*From the State Historian*” column in Connecticut Explored. Professor Woodward is a scholar of Early American and Atlantic World history, with an emphasis on Connecticut and New England. His research interests cover a variety of subjects, including witchcraft, alchemy and the history of science, the use of music in Early America, and environmental history.



In his new book, “*Creating Connecticut*” and in his lectures, Prof. Woodward helps us understand how people and events in Connecticut’s past played crucial roles in forming the culture and character of Connecticut today. A gifted story-teller, he brings to life in new ways the history we thought we knew from the nearly forgotten early presence of the Dutch, to the time when Connecticut was New England’s fiercest prosecutor of witches, the decades when Nutmeggers were rapidly leaving the state, and the years when Irish immigrants were hurrying into it. Whether it’s his investigation into the unusually rough justice meted out to Revolutionary War hero Nathan Hale, or a peek into Mark Twain’s smoking habits, Prof. Woodward will leave you thinking about our state’s past—and its future—in a whole new way.

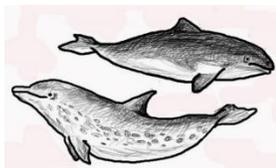
MEET JENNY



After an extensive search, our Board of Directors has hired Jenny Gaines as ALP’s new Administrator to replace Agnes Pier. Agnes had been serving as the interim Administrator following Bertina William’s retirement last year. Jenny has most recently been responsible for satisfying the preemptive needs and personal requirements of various retail clients, implementing marketing and sales activities, maintaining websites, publishing quarterly newsletters, and coordinating email campaigns. During her technical support

career, she has also maintained customer and product database systems and developed project scheduling systems that tracked assigned tasks to ensure timely completions. With her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Bay Path University, her database experience, website and newsletter familiarity and multi-tasking skills, Jenny is exactly what ALP needs to provide administrative support to our adult learning program, its members and its board of directors. Jenny lives in Windsor with her husband Mike and 5-year-old daughter Colette. Bienvenidos Jenny!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



In our ongoing effort to make you even smarter than your current Mensa membership level, the ALP-Horn is offering a new feature called “What’s the Difference.” In it, we will attempt to explain the difference between words or terms that we frequently and mistakenly use interchangeably - as in “porpoise” (7 ft. max, shark-like fin, round nose) and “dolphin” (10 ft.+, wave-shaped fin, pointy nose). Today’s lesson is about England, Great Britain, United Kingdom, and the British Isles:

The British Isles are composed of Great Britain, Ireland, and about 5,000 nearby islands – including the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Isle of Wight. Many of them are self-governing dependencies of the British crown rather than parts of the United Kingdom. **Octogenarian Alert:** This year’s Isle of Wight Festival is featuring 80-year old Tom Jones.

The United Kingdom (UK) is a country composed of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Great Britain is composed of England, Scotland and Wales, each of which are semi-autonomous with regional governments.

England and Scotland are kingdoms, not sovereign countries. Wales is a principality

If you’re more confused than ever, think of it this way: The British Isles are a geographic destination, the United Kingdom is a country, Great Britain is an island, and England is a political division.

Got it? Okay, now close your eyes and ask yourself, what is Great Britain? And if you can’t answer, open your eyes, re-read the article and just focus on the dolphins and porpoises.

MEANDERING MUSINGS OF A MUTANT MIND (Chapter 12)



- Is it the S or the C that’s silent in the word “scent”?
- If the #2 pencil is the most popular, why is it still #2?
- Are oranges called oranges because oranges are orange, or is orange called orange because oranges are orange?
- Why do “fat chance” and “slim chance” mean the same thing?
- If a man says something in the woods but there are no women there, is he still wrong?
- If you can drink a drink why can’t you food a food?
- Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

Words of Wisdom from Groucho???

“I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn’t arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I’m going to be happy in it.” - Groucho Marx

INTERVIEW WITH KIM HUNT, SENIOR CO-CHAIR, CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Exclusive Interview by Tom Gworek, Intrepid ALP-Horn Reporter

"Thank you Mr. Hunt for granting me my first interview for the ALP-Horn. I must tell you I am a little surprised. From your first name, I expected to interview someone from the distaff side."

"I'm confident you'll get over it Tom. Most others have. And please call me Kim."

"Okay then, Mr. Hunt, I mean Kim, tell me how your first term as Co-Chair went."

"Well, not as auspiciously as hoped for. All the classes for last year's spring semester were canceled of course because of the Covid thing. That set us back just a bit."

"I hear you bounced back."

"Yes we did. We did a lot of bouncing. In the spring of 2020, we thought Zoom was a new 'soft drink' but we quickly familiarized ourselves with the technology and then conducted a series of practice sessions to help our scheduled Presenters and the ALP Community get ready for a teleconferencing venue. Before the start of the fall semester, we were hitting on all three cylinders."

"I believe you mean all four cylinders."

"No, I mean three. We still had a few unexpected problems that we had to resolve."

"How did things go this last semester?"

"The numbers tell the story. We had 246 people sign up for 25 different programs. Each person signed up for an average of almost eight presentations. Of the 25 classes, six had over 100 attendees; another six registered over 85. Many people said they enjoyed the Zoom sessions more than the in-person classes. They could watch in their pajamas, eat their breakfast and not have to go out in the cold on snowy days. Questions and discussion were more intimate than using microphones. We are now

thinking of ways to keep the Zoom concept incorporated in future programs."

"Wonderful. Can I say you saved the ALP program from disaster?"



No, no, that's not fitting. The adoption of Zoom was truly a team effort. There were hi-tech folk, our Web Master, ALP Administrator, and – not the least – the accommodating patience of our ALP community that contributed to the successful transition.

"It's been quite a success story so far. How's the fall semester looking?"

"I'm glad you asked! We are, once again, considering over 25 courses of wide interest with a spectrum of courses that includes the symphonies of Beethoven; the ravages of the black plague; the history of comedy; garden design; and the unlikely topic of suffragettes in corselettes."

"Sounds like a great semester, I think I'll tune in myself."

"Well, we welcome everyone but you have to become a member of ALP first and then sign up for the courses. All the information you need is in the ALP-Horn. You can register for classes and pay the modest tuition fee on line or by mail and you can attend as many classes as you wish. It's easy!"

"I'm on it. Thank you again for this opportunity to get the inside information on ALP courses right from the 'horse's mouth' as they say."

"Be careful what you say buddy. You could have worded that better!"

"Sorry about that! By the way, I've noticed that you wear earphones during these classes. Do they help a great deal with the sound?"

"Not really, but they do keep my ears warm."

Bread is a lot like the sun. It rises in the Yeast and sets in the Waist.

DEVOTED DONORS



When the pandemic struck and ALP lost its venue for conducting classes, there was some concern about whether we could maintain our viability and perhaps not even survive as an organization. During our 2021 spring semester, however, a record 116 members said "yes we will" by donating a record \$3,400 to express their approval of how we responded to the challenge. These are their names and we thank them for their generosity and their faith:

Marian Adler, Dori Albert, Joyce and Dick Armstrong, Barbara Beeching, Anne Brock, John Buckley, Joyce and Harold Buckingham, Ruth Budlong, Ruth Channels, Carolyn and Ian Clark, Marjorie and Dixon Clark, Martha Colton, Davida Crabtree, Helen Cross, Alice and Pete Cruikshank, Christina Davies, Shirley Dudley, Diane Edell, Polly and Bob Ellis, Beth Ellison, Edith Fein, Julie Fewster, Carol G. Fine, Louise Fisher, Cheryl Fox, William Fuller, Austra Gaige, Dierdre Gilbert, Sylvia Gingras-Baker, Toni Gold, Barbara Goodwin, Connie Grandy, Pamela and Jack Gregory, Gloria and Tom Gworek, Wendy Haller, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Rosemarie Hargrave, Jane Harris, Marye Gail Harrison, Patricia Hensley, Bob Hewey, Alyce Hild, Katherine Ill, Christine Johnson, June Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Janet Jones, Marion Kelliher, Nancy Kline, Hedy Korst, Ursula Korzenik, Ruth Leggett, Stephanie Levine, Diane Mack, Jack Martin, Mary Martin, Errol Matzke, Kate and Hugh McLean, Paula Meachen, Frank Merblum, John Merrill, Marian Moore, Joan Morach, Joyce Morin, Shirley Morrison, Claire Murphy, Dennis Murphy, Anthony Nolosco, Doris Nussbaum, Harriet Odum, Martha O'Donnell, Julie Peck, Catherine Pepin, Dolores Peruch, Wendy Peterson, Agnes Pier, Edward Raymond, Ralph Redman, Virginia Rollefson, Gideon Rutenberg, Zellene Sandler, Edward Savage, Anne Schenck, Sharon and Lynn Scull, Joy Semjen, Diana Simoni, Carol Simpson, Nancy Skeelee, Sandra Slipp, Karen Sprout, Judith Stearns, Betsey Stevens, Leonard Swade, Sheila Sweeny, Barbara Taylor, Joanne Taylor, Mary Ann Watson, Susan Watson, Richard Wenner, Karen and Phil Will, Ann Winship, Beverly Wood, Sue Zeiner, Richard Zimmerman

NEW MEMBERS

Isn't it nice to know that with the level of intelligence shrinking throughout the world, there were 18 local retirees who came to understand the importance of keeping their minds sharp through on-going education? Please welcome the newest members of the ALP family:

Arnold Anderson

Karen Carney

Peggy Gutman

Dorothy Harrington

Warren Johnson

Ronald Marchetti

William Marut

Patricia Moran

Dennis Murphy

Kevin Noblet

Anthony Nolosco

Joseph Pace

Robert Perkins

Wendy Peterson

Everett Post

Virginia Rollefson

Sheila Sweeny

Ellie Tener

A 'GROANER' GEM

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan.



Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the King!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a star, makes no difference who you are."

MEET THE WOODRINGS

by Libbie Merrow

Richard and Marie Woodring have cheerfully dedicated their lives to education, to (1), ALP's, (2) their own and (3) thousands of students.

1, ALP's: One of our most popular Presenters every semester, Richard has presented sixteen multi-session ALP courses to our membership! Some of his courses have been lessons offered by others accompanied by Richard's entertaining and insightful comments. Some have been materials of his own devising like his famous lectures on bridges illustrated by handmade models which he kept in his bathtub. And with each lesson he has been supported by Marie, his permanent liaison, gofer and critic.



2. Their own: Together, they have traveled on many, many Elderhostel/Road Scholar trips. They have been to every state in the country and to many places all over the world. Marie has kept meticulous diaries.

3. Students: Richard says his goal has been to "help people to develop up to their full potential" and he has done that for thousands of students at Drexel University as well as for himself.

Richard loved to build things when he was a boy. He was also a great baseball and football player and received an athletic scholarship to Drexel, a premier engineering school. A shoulder injury from an ROTC boot camp put an end to his sports career but it enabled him to concentrate on his civil engineering studies. One of his professors recognized his abilities and plotted his career, sending him to the University of Illinois to get his MA and a PhD then bringing him back to Drexel to start climbing the academic career ladder.

There was one great boost to Richard's career that his mentor hadn't planned - meeting Marie. They have been a truly synergetic couple, working together to raise their family and advance Richard's career. One example: While Richard was planning for his oral exam for his Master's degree, she was in the basement typing his dissertation.

Eventually, Richard became Dean of the Engineering School, traveled the world consulting on his specialty, reinforced concrete. When he retired at age 80, Drexel named "The Richard E. Woodring Architectural and Civil Engineering Lab" for him and gave him an honorary doctorate degree.

Marie's career has been less public but she is very talented too. She was a stenographer with secret clearance, stayed home to raise the children, taught piano, taught preschool for 19 years, and has been the chief cheerleader for the Richard E Woodring Fan Club, of which there are lots of members all over the world, including us, his ALP "students!"

Richard and Marie's children were terrific athletes too and starred on teams at fine colleges. Of their five grandsons, four starred on their college football teams and one played college soccer. Can you imagine the number of games the Woodrings have been to, starting with their oldest son's Little League? The Woodrings have truly lived up to their full potential and made the world a better place for us all.

How do you frighten the new generation? Put them in a room with a rotary phone, an analog watch and a TV with an antenna and no remote. Then leave them directions written in cursive.

TAPESTRY

By Jackie Mott Brown



I close my eyes and clearly see my strong Nebraska women relatives, happily entranced by threads and fibers: Cousin Mary Elizabeth stepping from the milking barn to piece a crazy quilt for winter warmth. Nancy, still peppy and forever smiling, turns her basement into a creative den. Fabrics and yarns fly into clothes for the needy, anonymously given. Her secret project fills her heart. Auntie Agnes keeps her prized historical button collection in a cabinet and wonders about the soldiers in past wars. Who wore those buttons into battle? Did they return? Naturally, Agnes is now an historian. Mayme, my magical grandmother, was pulled out of school in eighth grade to sew for her seven sisters --gorgeous mutton sleeved, crisp white blouses and later Vogue pattern prom dresses for me.

No wonder I think of my life as a tapestry. At six years of age I peered into the night sky and knew instinctively that the planets were

attached by string. Decades later I laughed when scientists announced the innovative STRING THEORY! But later, while I served in the Peace Corps in the early 1980's, I focused less on my own Strings after taking notice of those handsome Andes women. They sat on the mountain watching their flocks and effortlessly spinning soft, fluffy alpaca wool into yarn that no one could resist touching. My tapestry is slower. It takes time, painstakingly formed each day by emotion and action, turning points and love.

In my tapestry, knots are good. When I get to the end of my rope, I tie a knot and hang on. There are happy times --warm colors of red, purple and yellow. Sad times --cool blues and greens. And dark days' blacks, browns, greys. None of those kinds of days are avoidable. I embrace them all, growing and learning, weaving my blues, blacks and yellows all together. Tying knots along the way so my life will not unravel but will remain taut and strong as I wait for another row to form in my tapestry called Life!

SECRET TO A LONG MARRIAGE

Fred was being interviewed by a reporter about his pending 50th wedding anniversary when he was asked to share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years.

Fred replied, *"Well, I always treated her nice and gave her everything she wanted, but I think the real key was when I took her to Paris on our 25th anniversary."*

The reporter responded, *'Fred, you are an inspiration to all the husbands out there! Can you please tell them what you're planning for your 50th anniversary?'*

Fred proudly replied, *"I'm probably going to go get her."*



"Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy." - Anne Frank

DID YOU KNOW?

When you attend the Annual Meeting, you get to make decisions that affect the entire ALP organization and every one of its members, including you. You will be voting to approve or disapprove the board-recommended budget for the coming fiscal year, the slate of members who have volunteered to serve on ALP's Board of Directors for the coming academic year, and the board-recommended amendments to ALP's bylaws that define how ALP is governed.

To prepare you for your vote, you will soon receive a package of material that describes in detail each of the items on which you will be asked to vote. It's up to you to read the material and come to your own conclusion as to their acceptability. A good amount of time and effort was spent by the current Board of Directors to discuss, approve and prepare the material for your consideration and it is hoped that you, as an ALP Member, will do your part to help keep ALP a viable organization. Read, attend the meeting and vote.



Author, Author!!!



Anyone who has sat in on a writing class with Kim Hunt knows that he is a talented writer and poet with a vocabulary second only to Mr. Webster's. If you would like to have a complimentary, inscribed copy of his recently published book of poems, "Deciphering Uncertainty," you may do so by making a \$17.50 contribution to ALP. As it turns out, Kim also has a very generous side as demonstrated by his willingness to help ALP recover from last year's pandemic-induced financial setback by donating numerous copies of his book to ALP to give to its members. A collection of sonnets and villanelles, the book covers topics of Hope and Love, Adversity, Family and Relationships, Nature and Moods and includes 17 color illustrations of paintings created by Kim's daughter.

On-line Credit or Debit card payments can be made to ALP by visiting our website, alp.uconn.edu, and using the Special Event Registration link under the Registration tab. Or you can send a check made out to ALP to the Adult Learning Program, 270 Farmington Avenue, Suite 262, Farmington, CT 06032, noting on the check that your contribution is for the book. While they last, copies of the book will be available until June 30th. Jenny Gaines, ALP's Administrator, will notify Kim of the orders and arrange for delivery of the books to the lucky owners. You can't lose. Order the book, help ALP help you. Read the book, help yourself.

Overheard During a Zoom Intermission

"I've reached an age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me."



ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM INC.

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

Administrator: Jenny Gaines
860-785-5609 (Hours by appointment)
E-mail: admin@uconnalp.org
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 our website often 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

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