

2020 SPRING 5CLIR ENCORE PRESENTATIONS

Encore presentations this spring are scheduled for Fridays beginning February 21, from 10-12:00 a.m., and then Fridays beginning March 27, from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., in the lower level meeting room at Applewood Retirement Community, One Spenser Drive, Amherst. Please park on Spencer Drive, not in the parking lots.

NOTE to all Applewood residents: You are all welcome, come join us!

Friday, February 21, 2020

10:00 a.m. ***Constantinople vs. Rome:***

The Struggle for Leadership of Christianity

Presenter: Philip Fitz.

Seminar: Istanbul: The Storied City

Description: Christianity divided into East and West by 1054. How did language and culture contribute to this split? Come see how Plato, dead for 1400 years, played an important part.

11:00 a.m. ***Hagia Sophia and Byzantine architecture***

Presenter: Suzannah Fabing (Muspratt)

Seminar: Istanbul: The Storied City

Description: When a revolt flattened most of Constantinople in the early 6th century, the young emperor, Justinian, immediately commissioned his architects to design a grand new church, Hagia Sophia, that would exalt the Christian religion and—by extension—himself as ruler of the Byzantine empire. Sparing no expense and employing dramatic structural innovations, in less than five years 10,000 masons built what would be the largest domed masonry structure in the world for the next thousand years, adorned with glittering gold-backed mosaics, rich marble revetments and glorious light. Hagia Sophia has influenced the design of myriad churches and mosques ever since but, in the judgment of many, has never been equaled.

Friday, February 28, 2020

10:00 a.m. ***The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights***

Presenter: James R. Lee

Seminar: Origins of the U.S. Constitution

Description: An examination of how the Second Amendment to the Constitution evolved: its origins in British law, the state of the union when the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were written and ratified, and subsequent interpretations of the Second Amendment.

11:00 a.m. ***Are You More Than 60% of a Person?"***

Presenter: Elizabeth Davis

Seminar: Origins of the U.S. Constitution

Description: What on earth was the Constitutional Convention thinking when it decided to value a slave as three-fifths of a whole person? This program will look at the history of slavery in the U.S. and events leading up to the fateful decisions made in those hot muggy days of the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia. What are the issues the convention delegates brought with them that caused them to make the three-fifths slave compromise? What are its long-term effects?

Friday, March 6, 2020

10:00 a.m. ***Geography and Elections***

Presenter: Rachel Borson

Seminar: The Changing American Electorate

As politics (and the media) becomes increasingly nationalized, we seem to be less influenced by the culture of our geography as citizens. This has implications for elections at both the local and national level. How can we best understand these large changes as we approach the 2020 elections?

11:00 a.m. ***The Basket of Non-Deplorables***

Presenter: Jay Russell

Seminar: The Changing American Electorate

Description: Many people recall Hillary Clinton's statement in 2016 that half of Trump supporters belonged in a "basket of deplorables." Lost in the uproar over that remark was what she then immediately said about Trump supporters in the other basket: "people we have to understand and empathize with." This presentation seeks some understanding of, and empathy with, three groups of Trump supporters: evangelicals, small town and rural residents and Obama to Trump voters.

Friday, March 13, 2020

10:00 a.m. ***The Mysterious Adam Smith***

Presenter: Sandy Belden

Seminar: History of American Capitalism

Description: Adam Smith today is viewed as the intellectual parent of modern capitalism. In his day, he was viewed as a moral philosopher in company with David Hume and others of the Scottish Enlightenment. How does one reconcile these apparent contradictions?

11:00 a.m. ***The Information Revolution and its Impact on American Capitalism***

Presenter: John Armstrong

Seminar: History of American Capitalism

Description: The last 70 years have seen a revolution in Information Technology, a revolution which has enabled profound changes in the nature of

American Capitalism. It has also given rise to vast changes...many good, but some very troubling...in the fabric of our society.

Friday, March 20, 2020

10:00 a.m. ***Sissinghurst Castle Garden***

Presenter: Chris Hurn

Seminar: What Do Gardens Mean?

Description: Sissinghurst is the most celebrated and probably the most visited, garden in England, with over 200,000 visitors every year. Its fame rests on its beauty, the stunning "White Garden," for example, but also on the extraordinary lives of its creators, the romantic and aristocratic novelist Vita Sackville-West and her devoted husband, Harold Nicholson, a classical scholar, diplomat and politician. They made the garden together, crediting much of its beauty to the other, and yet lived largely separate lives.

11:00 a.m. ***The Founding Gardeners***

Presenter: Carol Walker

Seminar: What Do Gardens Mean?

Description: America's founding fathers (Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson) all had a passion for nature, plants, gardens and agriculture which both reflected and influenced their political thought. This presentation tries to explore these interconnections and how each one's vision of their new country is reflected in the landscapes they created for their own homes.

Friday, March 27, 2020

1:30 p.m. ***Literature for Rainbow People***

Presenter: Elizabeth Rumelt

Seminar: Gender and Sexuality

Description: This presentation is an examination of literature that "gives voice and visibility to that which has been previously silenced" because it does not conform to a heterosexual "norm." In doing so, it looks at how the coded messages of the past have given way to openness in literature for adults. It also looks at the increasing acceptance of diversity in literature for children and young adults.

2:30 p.m. ***The Night of the Moon***

Presenter: Caroline (Cat) Batson

Seminar: Writing to Remember

Description: What do a fable, a few Latin words, and the moon landing have to do with a summer memory and a footstep into adulthood?

Friday, April 3, 2020

1:30 p.m. ***Memories of a Scandinavian Christmas***

Presenter: Ina Luadtke

Seminar: Writing to Remember

Description: A request for holiday memories by the DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE last year was the genesis of this offering for Writing to Remember - Purple. Travel with me to North Dakota seventy-three years ago to my home without running water, indoor plumbing, or electricity and celebrate a Scandinavian Christmas. Enjoy recalling and sharing your childhood memories in response.

2:30 p.m. ***Living Small***

Presenter: Emily Hurn

Seminar: New Architectural Strategies

Description: Downsizing, cubed. That's the challenge you would undertake in choosing life in a mobile home, RV, tiny house, or converted cargo container. We'll have some fun exploring the traditions behind these very small homes and looking at their creative use of indoor and outdoor space.

Friday, April 17, 2020

1:30 p.m. ***The Cambrian "Explosion"***

Presenter: Paul Cooper

Seminar: The Ends of the World

Description: About 543 million years ago, life on this planet "exploded" in an unprecedented burgeoning of complex fauna. The vagaries of geology have preserved fossils of these creatures in stunning detail. The discovery and analysis of these fossils completely changed the way we view evolution.

2:30 p.m. ***The End - Permian Mass Extinction***

Presenter: Bruce Goldstein

Seminar: The Ends of the World

Description: This mass extinction 250 million years ago was the worst of them all. What happened and why? Are there lessons from this ancient history that apply today?