

A Survey of Modern American Theatre

Facilitator – Michael Donohue

Dates, Time – Thursdays, September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2012; 7-9 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

How has Theatre (Modern American Drama) simultaneously reflected and stimulated the ever-evolving social, economic, political and philosophical milieu in the U.S. from 1875 to the present? We will read five plays over the six week period. Scripts and their authors will be chosen based upon their ability to illustrate a specific period in the development of modern drama. Discussion will also explore plot, theme, characters, dialogue (text and sub-text), convention, genre, stages and staging as well as audience interaction.

A resident of Blue Hill, *Michael Donahue's* theatre background began in Philadelphia during the 1960's as actor, director, designer, producer, and teacher. He also founded The Theatre School, Inc. which provided professional training in the dramatic arts, accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Bodhicitta: The Buddhist Synthesis of Wisdom and Compassion

Facilitator – Philip Osgood

Dates and Time – Mondays, October 15, 22, 29, November 5, 2012; 4:30-6:30 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library (November 5 session is in the Bass Room)

The concept of *bodhicitta* (Sanskrit for “awakening mind”) is an essential aspect of Buddhist teachings and meditation practices that focus on the cultivation of the qualities of wisdom and compassion. We will examine the principles of bodhicitta by reading selections from a variety of Buddhist authors and discuss the relevance of this ancient tradition to everyday life and contemporary social issues. Suggested reading will include authors such as: The Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, Pema Chodron, John Makransky and Shantideva.

Philip Osgood lives in Brooksville. He is a freelance writer and writing teacher and has been a Buddhist practitioner for 3 decades with experience in the Vipassana, Zen and Tibetan traditions. Philip leads workshops and retreats in meditation practices with the Foundation for Active Compassion.

Election Roundtable 2012

Facilitator – Ronald Lesko

Dates and Times – Wednesdays, Oct. 24 & 31, 2012; 1-3 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Fair and balanced Roundtable discussions will cover the issues and candidates for the presidential election and selected congressional races. The Chair will facilitate the panels and participation. Readings will be suggested. No charge for attending this event.

Ronald J.P. Lesko is a retired Professor of Political Science, Political Theory and Philosophy, State University of New York

The Role of Government and the Future of Democracy in an Age of Austerity

Facilitators – David Snow and Tom Bjorkman

Dates and Times – Fridays October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 2012; 1-3 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Globalization, technology, and deregulation have altered the character of the American economy, introducing a new era of wealth for those at the top of the income pyramid and stagnating incomes for the middle class. Initiatives to increase government authority to curb the speculative excesses that fueled the financial meltdown in 2009-2010 have been largely stymied by those who see government as the problem and free markets as the solution. This colloquy will explore the economic and ideological roots of this clash and the historic struggle to define the proper role for government in creating a productive economy and a just democratic society. Readings include *Power, Inc.*, by David Rothkopf and Thomas Edsall's *The Age of Austerity* as well as articles by thoughtful spokesmen such as Tom Friedman and Francis Fukuyama.

David Snow was a partner in a large international law firm before serving as a Federal Bankruptcy Judge. Most recently he taught a course at the University of Maine that focused on Constitutional Law.

Tom Bjorkman holds a Ph.D. in Government from Cornell, spent 30 years as a CIA analyst, and currently works as a part-time consultant for government and private sector clients.

What Makes a House Appeal to You?

Facilitator – Farnham “Mike” Blair

Dates and Time – Tuesdays, October 30, November 6, 13, 20, 2012; 10:30 am–12:30 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

We all have visited houses that we almost instantly love – and houses that very quickly make us uneasy. Some of our response comes from a home's decorations, but most of it comes from the home's design – our reaction to its uses of space, materials and light. Learning how to articulate our feelings about house design is not only fun; it also brings us pleasure each time we enter a home that is new to us. And we will see our own homes in a new way. In this colloquy, we'll first establish a critical background through the writings of Le Corbusier, author of the concept of a house as a “machine for living”, and through the observations of Alain de Botton, who focuses on the psychological and philosophical dimensions of architectural design. Then, we'll explore our reaction to the designs of various contemporary Maine houses. As architecture is an art—an area that provokes individual reaction—we'll each be discovering how to express just what kind of house would appeal to us.

Farnham (Mike) Blair is a retired educator who is the author of five books (two of essays on art, two of poetry, and a memoir of his childhood). He is a graduate of Yale and Georgetown.

The Cold War: Bipolarity to Multipolarity

Facilitators – Ronald Lesko and Tim Thomas

Dates and Time – Wednesdays, Nov 7, 14, (skip Nov 21), 28 and Dec. 5, 2012; 12-2 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Remember the Cold War? Historical bookends of this period are the Yalta Conference and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Events and historical figures to be reviewed include the Berlin Airlift, the “Berlin Wall”, Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. American attitudes and fears of atheistic communism and perceived threats will be discussed, along with America's bigger and more costly government, constant warfare and our role as the world's policeman. Be ready to discuss your own memories and reflections. There will be a common text, film and oral materials.

Lowell (Tim) Thomas is a retired Philadelphia lawyer who was an English major in college but now enjoys reading and discussing American History.

Ronald J. P. Lesko is a retired and reformed Professor of Political Science, Political Theory and Philosophy, State University of New York.

For participants to enjoy maximum involvement, the size of each colloquy is limited to the first 15 who register. If there is a waiting list, you will be notified immediately.

If circumstances make it impossible for you to begin a colloquy, please let us know as early as possible, but not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the series. It is our policy not to return registration payments after that date.

To improve your chances, please register as early as possible. You may sign up online at www.colloquydowneast.org, or tear off this form and send it in to

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When registering online, please send your check for the registration fees of \$50 per colloquy as quickly as possible, to complete the registration process.

Registration

I would like to register for the following colloquy(s):

Your First Title: _____

Your Second Title: _____

Your Third Title: _____

Your Name

Your Mailing Address

Town, ZIP

Your Phone

Your Email Address

Circumstances may force us to change dates, times or locations already published. In this case we will do everything possible to inform you immediately .

Please do not forget to include your check for \$50 per colloquy you signed up for when you mail this registration form. Thank you!

Winston Churchill, Statesman and Writer

Facilitator – John Roberts

Dates and Time – Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2013; 3-5 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Early a problem student, later a polo-playing battle-hardened cavalry officer in India and Sudan, and an embedded journalist-adventurer in Cuba and South Africa, Winston Churchill came home to Great Britain to become a flip-flopping politician who evolved into one of most revered and honored statesmen of the western world. Along the way, he read and wrote history and biography, learning strong, colorful words with which to warn of Hitler, then lead unflinchingly when war came with vengeance. This colloquy will explore Churchill's fascinating life that culminated as Nobel laureate in literature and valiant protector of democracy.

John M. Roberts, M.D. is Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Boston University Medical School, and student in retirement of American history.

The Land Ethic: Conservation from Yellowstone to Blue Hill

Facilitators – Mary Barnes and Jim Dow

Dates and Time – Mondays, January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2013; 4–6 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

What is the history of the American land conservation movement? What are the philosophical underpinnings of this movement as it has developed in the United States over the last century and a half? In the state of Maine and on the Blue Hill Peninsula, what role does conservation play in our lives today? And what challenges will conservation face, in the 21st century? In this colloquy, we will explore these questions, aided by a variety of background readings that include selections from nature writers and philosophers, biographical sketches of leading historical figures, and articles about both significant events in the movement's history and the challenging issues going forward. Each session will begin with photographic images of the movement's work to establish our footing and inspire the conversation.

Mary Barnes is the President of the Board of Directors of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. She is a visual artist represented by the Turtle and Ten High Street Galleries of Maine. Her art is derived from her experiences in nature.

Jim Dow, Executive Director of Blue Hill Heritage Trust, has worked professionally in the land conservation movement at the state and local level for the last 25 years.

The Arab Awakening: Can America Cope?

Facilitator – Ronald Lesko

Dates and Time – Wednesdays, January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 2013; 12:30–2:30 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

This colloquy will consider some of the significant issues (cultural differences between Islam and the West, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, oil, deep cultural differences within nation-states, authoritarian governments, etc.) and selected major players (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel and others). An underlying historical question is involved here: Is there anything new and unique taking place currently in the history of the Middle East, or is it merely presenting us with a reshuffling of the power formula leading to another geopolitical and historical dead end? Readings and other materials will be announced. The Camden Conference (on the same topic) will be simulcast at The Grand, Ellsworth, on February 22-24, 2012.

Ronald J. P. Lesko is a retired and reformed Professor of Political Science, Political Theory and Philosophy, State University of New York.

Goethe, Thoreau and Steiner's Contributions to Holistic Science

Facilitator – Jennifer Greene

Dates and Time – Thursdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013; 3-5 pm

Location – Water Research Institute, South Blue Hill

In this colloquy, we will explore the contributions Johann von Goethe (1749 – 1832), Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) and Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925) made towards a science based on direct observation, or phenomenology. Though primarily known for his literature, Goethe considered his most important work to be in the sciences. Steiner edited Goethe's scientific works making them known to the world for the first time. The form of phenomenological science, which Goethe developed and Steiner expanded, has become known as "Goethean Science". We will read about, discuss and consider this method of scientific exploration as a way of following nature's 'footprints'. The colloquy discussions, which will take place at the Water Research Institute Laboratory in South Blue Hill, will also involve experiment with water phenomena to experience this approach to science first-hand.

Jennifer Greene is a resident of Blue Hill and an international authority on water phenomena.

Chowders, Baked Beans, And Blueberry Pie: A historical and contemporary look at setting the Maine table.

Facilitator – Brooke Dojny

Dates and Times – Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2013; 3-5 pm

Locations – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library, and Brooke's Kitchen

Maine's climate and geography have kept the state isolated from the culinary mainstream long enough for it to have developed its own unique food culture and traditions - many persist to this day. Lots of Mainers still eat molasses baked yellow-eye or Jacob's Cattle beans with brown bread or buttermilk biscuits. They simmer up pots of milky haddock chowder or simple, rich lobster stews, and they bake hermit cookies or a flaky lard-crust blueberry pie for dessert. In two discussion sessions we will explore the roots of these traditions via the work of well-known cookbook authors and other writers, and share our own experiences with Maine food; at the alternate two meetings, which will be held in my kitchen, we will cook and eat some of the dishes mentioned above. There is a nominal additional fee for ingredients.

Brooke Dojny is a food journalist and author of more than a dozen cookbooks, including The New England Cookbook, Dishing up Maine, and Lobster!

Blue Hill Peninsula Geology

Facilitator – Fred Beck

Dates and Time – Saturdays, April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 2013; 10 am-12 pm

Location – Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library (April 27 only), others sessions are in the field.

Where did all the granite come from? Were there really active volcanoes here in the past? Why so many old copper mines in this area? Where did all the sand and gravel come from? What about ground water in our wells? What are all the local rock types and how did they form? The geology of the Blue Hill Peninsula is complex, tremendously varied and important in a wide variety of ways. Through readings, discussions and field trips, participants will find answers to some of the above questions. We will spend the first session inside discussing all of the above issues and the subsequent sessions will be as field trips to specific geologic features. A suggested reading list will be sent to participants well in advance of the colloquy.

Fred Beck, BS and MA Geology, is presently a consulting geologist with offices in Yarmouth, Maine, and has led numerous geologic field trips in the Blue Hill area.

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