

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 to

COLLOQUY DOWNEAST
PO Box 394
Blue Hill, ME 04614-0394

When registering online, kindly send your check, made out to Colloquy Downeast, for the registration fee of \$50 per colloquy, as quickly as possible, to complete the registration.

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

Registration

Title of your colloquy

Title of a second colloquy

Your Name

Your Mailing Address

Town, ZIP

Your Phone

Your Email Address

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

Fall 2011

The Buddha Has Landed!

Buddhism in America

Mondays, October 10-November 7; 4:30pm – 6:30pm
 Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Since the time of the historical Buddha, some 2500 years ago, Buddhism has migrated through diverse Asian cultures. And now, here in the United States, there has been a dramatic upsurge of interest in Buddhism over the last 60 years. This colloquy will focus on Buddhism less as a religion and more as a contemplative practice and philosophy that has been readily adopted and adapted by modern Americans. We will examine the basic tenets of the Buddha's teachings and explore the three main expressions of Buddhist meditation practice that have landed in America: Vipassana, Zen and Tibetan Buddhism. We will discuss how our contemporary culture is already influencing the formation of a new and unique expression of an ancient tradition.

Facilitator: *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.

Enjoying 21st Century Poetry

Wednesdays, October 19-November 9; 10:30am – 12:30pm
 Location: Private Dining Room, Parker Ridge Inn

A great deal of excellent poetry has been written in the last ten years—and it includes an unusually broad spectrum of subjects and styles. We'll look closely at a representative sampling, exploring meanings (which are always plural, because, as with all artworks, there exists no single "correct" interpretation), patterns, and tones. A non-technical vocabulary will be used throughout our discussions, as the purpose of this colloquy is to foster insights and pleasure for everyone.

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

The First Amendment

Tuesdays, November 8-29; 10:30am – 12:30pm
 Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

The First Amendment's command that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." is deceptively simple. Not long ago one of my retired MBA business colleagues, who has become enthralled with the First Amendment, expressed wonder over the furor generated by the Court's decision in *Citizens United* to strike down Congressional restraints on campaign spending when the First Amendment's command was so
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clear. But, as Tony Lewis' book, *Freedom for the Thought We Hate*, describes in a short readable history of the First Amendment, the courts have since the Sedition Act of 1798 struggled with how to square this apparently simple command with myriad concerns including libel, obscenity, state secrets, hate speech, privacy and desecration of the flag.

Facilitator: *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.

Learning History through the Historical Novel:

A Visit with Patrick O'Brian and the Royal Navy

Thursdays, October 27-November 17; 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Legions of dedicated followers of Patrick O'Brian's Aubrey/Maturin series of novels, set during the Napoleonic wars, agree that the author has filled them with a fine sense of historical detail. In addition, the novels reflect O'Brian's respect for and sensitivity to things nautical, for music and manners and even for flora and fauna. Facilitators Slaven and Thomas will select four novels from the O'Brian series to read (read again for many) and analyze for historical and period accuracy, for continuity and importantly, for enjoyment. The facilitators will add some additional reading material and encourage participants to make their own inquiries into the events and customs of the period reflected in the O'Brian novels.

Facilitators: *Robert Slaven* is a retired Navy Captain and student of military and local history. He holds a BS from the Naval Academy, and a M.A. in International Relations from Creighton University.

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

Origins of Chinese Xenophobia

Tuesdays, November 29-December 20; 10:30am–12:30pm
 Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Why do many Chinese regard Westerners as nothing more than unprincipled opportunists? What is the basis for this widespread mistrust of foreigners, our motives, our institutions and our cultural influence? In this colloquy we will explore the background of Chinese xenophobia including their historical isolationist policies and subsequent European economic and political interventions especially in the 19th Century. The degradations of the Opium Wars, the Boxer Uprising and the Treaty of Versailles left Chinese at all levels humiliated and embittered, blaming the weak and corrupt Qing dynasty, the rigid, ossified Confucian-trained bureaucrats, and above all Western Imperialism for their plight. This period of national shame is not forgotten today.
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Facilitators for *Origins of Chinese Xenophobia*:

Courtenay Haight is owner and operator of Haight Farm in South Blue Hill. He is a retired international banker with a continuing strong interest in the Far East.

Tony Newton is also a retired commercial banker. He attended school in Canton, where he was the only non-Chinese, and multinational schools in Singapore and the Philippines before graduating from Harvard and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Winter 2012

Samuel de Champlain:

Early Explorer of Maine and Father of New France

Wednesdays, January 4-25; 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Between 1599 and 1635, Champlain made an astonishing 23 transatlantic voyages between France and the New World. Early on, he established year round settlements and trading posts in Maine, Nova Scotia and Quebec. An accomplished navigator and cartographer, he published elegant maps of his extensive explorations. With but grudging support from Paris, he became the Father of New France by fair treatment of first nations, persistent advocacy and skillful governance. Certain aspects of his life remain mysteries (e.g. where are his remains?) but the splendid biography, *Champlain's Dream*, by David Hackett Fisher will be an enjoyed source for discussion.

Facilitator: *John M. Roberts* is Emeritus Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Boston University and a devoted student of history.

American Power:

Our Prospects on the Future World Stage

Wednesdays, January 18-February 8, 12:00 – 2:00
 Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Library

Can America continue to be a leading power in the 21st century? Since national power is always limited by geo-political considerations, our colloquy will consider four of these variables: first, America's moral and ideological character, and the limits of power; second, the crisis of profligacy and resources; third, our political crisis; and finally, our military crisis. American exceptionalism calls for re-evaluation as world geo-political variables transform our social life. Variables such as globalization, international finance, technological and electronic developments, religious and ideological differences, migration, immigration, demographic trends, military expenditures, security problems and transforming nation-states affect our domestic and foreign policies.

This colloquy is a pre-event for the Camden Conference, Feb 17-19, 2012 at the Grand.

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

Biodiversity

Fridays, February 10-March 2; 10:30am – 12:30pm
Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

In this colloquy, we will discuss the diversity of life on Earth and what it means for humans to be part of and dependent on this biodiversity. We will become acquainted with examples of the vast range of types of organisms that presently inhabit the earth. We will discuss the origins and extinctions of life forms. We will try to understand the ecological and economic value of biodiversity. And finally, we will look at various proposals to maintain the biodiversity that is being lost through human activities.

Facilitator: **David Porter** is a recently retired professor of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia where he was on the faculty for 37 years. His particular interest is the biology of fungi.

Sustaining a Community Scale Fishery: Ecological and Policy Issues

Tuesdays, February 14-Mar 13; 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Deer Isle Elementary School Library

What are the requirements for a sustainable fishery at the scale we are all familiar with in Hancock County? How do the issues of scale: ecological scale, governance levels, and scale of fishing operations impact the answers to this question? In this five-part colloquy, two sessions will focus on ecological questions of scale, including Ames' work on localized cod stock structure and his new work linking alewives with groundfish. Two sessions will focus on policy, unpacking the role of key parts of our laws such as owner-operator in lobstering, or sectors and catch shares in groundfish affect the ability of family-owned fishing operations to survive. The fifth session will provide an opportunity to pull the ecology and policy issues together.

Facilitators: **Robin Alden** is co-founder of Penobscot East Resource Center, an award winning fisheries publicist, former editor and publisher of Commercial Fisheries News, and the former Maine Commissioner of Marine Resources.

Ted Ames is a scientist, fisherman, and co-founder of Penobscot East Resource Center. His insightful work on groundfish stocks and management has been recognized with a MacArthur Fellowship.

Shackleton

Wednesdays, February 29 - March 21; 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

“Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition in case of success.” This is Shackleton's ad for men for his most famous expedition
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during which his ship, the *Endurance*, became ice bound and sank in the Weddell Sea stranding the twenty-eight members of the expedition. This colloquy will examine Sir Ernest Shackleton's leadership in his efforts, first to reach the South Pole as well as his experiences in 1914-1915 aboard the *Endurance*. Three times Shackleton failed in what he'd set out to do, and yet today he remains one of the great heroes in the history of polar exploration. We will attempt to discover why he continues to awe and inspire us.

Facilitator: **Ruth Davis** is a former archivist at MBL in Woods Hole. She and her husband, Joel, have traveled to the Antarctic on four separate occasions.

The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and Capitalism in a World of Nation States

Thursdays, February 23-March 15; 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Location: Deer Isle Elementary School Library

Discussion will focus on the need for sources of regulation in a globalized world. We will look at the European Union and the threatened collapse of the Euro due to disparate economic conditions among its members. Emerging democratic movements in the Middle East and Northern Africa present special considerations as newly organized nation states enter the global economy. What are the circumstances in which a democracy should be willing to surrender control of certain sovereign prerogatives to international or transnational regulation? Discussion book: *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*, 2011, by Harvard professor Dani Rodrick

Facilitator: **Richard Howe** is a reformed securities lawyer and investment banker. He does have a strong interest and experience in world affairs and the business and political climates that influence them.

Mission Statement

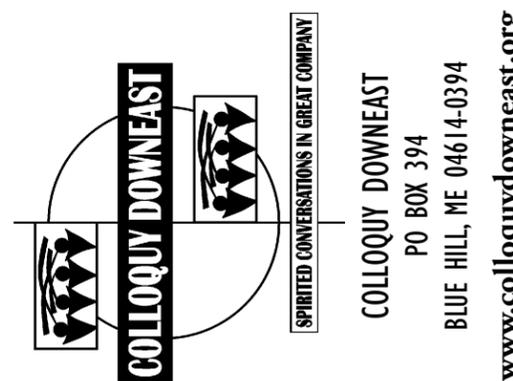
The mission of Colloquy Downeast is to create an independent learning community (supported and nourished by residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula, Deer Isle and beyond) engaged in enriching discussions through exchange of thoughts and ideas. This mission is supported by informed volunteer facilitators who offer analytical, interactive and conversational learning experiences to participants willing to share ideas and challenge their own assumptions.

The Steering Committee

is comprised of professionals from the fields of art, business, education, engineering, government, journalism, medicine, music, religion, philosophy and science:

- Ruth Davis; Courtenay Haight; Rich Howe; Margery Irvine;
- Linda Lesko; Ronald J.P. Lesko; Jean Newkirk; Tony Newton;
- Clifton Page; David Porter; John Roberts;
- Virginia (Dindy) Royster; Bob Slaven; David Snow;
- Marilyn Stewart; Lowell (Tim) Thomas.

Our program for September '11-March '12
Registration Form inside



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Preview Spring 2012

Superheroes for Grown-Ups: Graphic Memoirs

Tuesdays, April 3-24; 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Facilitator: **Margery Irvine** is a writer and editor and University of Maine English Department faculty member with expertise in composition, creative writing and the literature of Maine.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Lion, Fox, Enigma

Thursdays, April 12, 19, 26 and May 3; 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Location: Howard Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Facilitator: **Ron dePaolo**, the retired editor and publisher of Kirkus Reviews, has been a journalist for over 45 years.

Achilles and Odysseus

Fridays, April 20, 27, May 4, 11; 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Location: Bass Room, Blue Hill Public Library

Facilitator: **Jane Garfield** is Medical Director of Med Now in Ellsworth. She has been interested in all things Greek since her undergraduate days at Bryn Mawr. Jane has sailed extensively in Greece, including three Greek cruises with Yale classics professor, Don Kagan

To find detailed information on all colloquys, please go to our website

www.colloquydowneast.org.

Facilitators will post lists of books they recommend and may also post other reading material of particular interest for you to download.

Our next publication will be available in late December, including full write-ups for the subjects listed above.