

Sherborn Lifetime Learning Winter/Spring 2015

****Online registration now available at www.sherbornma.org****



Conversation with Maud on Justice: The View from the Twenty-first Century

Social and political philosophers have long been concerned with the question of justice, but the particular problems of the 21st century: inequality of wealth, discrimination against marginal groups, climate control and what it means to be a fair steward of the earth, these have made the question of justice even more pressing. We will look at what four contemporary philosophers have to say and then discuss their answers.

Instructor: Maud Chaplin is Professor of Philosophy Emerita at Wellesley College where she was a favorite teacher in philosophy and ethics for 40 years.

When: Wednesdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Sherborn Town Hall, Rm. 204A

Cost for four sessions: \$40



Mars Science through the Eyes of our Landers, Orbiters, and Future Astronauts

Thanks to robotic spacecraft we are making great progress in learning about Mars, yet we have a lot to learn. How do we design, build, transport, and operate our Mars science robots, and how do we decide on our missions to Mars? What are we learning and what are the great 'Martian mysteries' that remain? Might explorer/astronauts one day live and work on Mars?

Instructor: Kenneth Ramsley is a spacecraft systems engineer and planetary geosciences researcher with a 30-year product-development background, including significant design content in five satellites currently on orbit. At Brown University he teaches spacecraft engineering and studies geological processes that take place throughout the inner solar system.

When: Thursdays, April 30, May 7, 14, 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Sherborn Town Hall, Rm. 204A

Cost for four sessions: \$40



America's Wars

Americans think of their nation as a peaceful one that reluctantly resorts to force to safeguard its interests and advance democratic principles. How does this flattering vision accord with reality? We shall attempt to provide an answer by looking into America's major wars starting with the Spanish-American war, which marked America's entry onto the world stage, and then go on to the two World Wars, the Vietnamese war and the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Instructor: In the Foreign Service Burt Levin served in Taiwan, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Thailand and headed the Republic of China desk in the State Department. He also served as U. S. Consul General to Hong Kong and U. S. Ambassador to Burma. Now retired, he heads the Asia Society office in Hong Kong and is Visiting Professor at Carleton College.

When: Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, and 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Sherborn Town Hall, Rm 204A

Cost for four sessions: \$40

Six Cutting Edge Questions in American Politics



Political scientist Alan Schechter will provide background and insight on the following questions with ample time for discussion: (1) Is a New Cold War Starting? (2) Can Government Action Slow Global Warming? (3) Is Immigration Reform Possible? (4) Is a Devastating Water Shortage Inevitable? (5) What Will It Take to Regulate Campaign Spending? (6) Is Gridlock a Permanent Feature of American Politics?

Instructor: Alan Schechter is Professor Emeritus at Wellesley College, where he taught American Politics and Constitutional Law. He was appointed to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and was himself a Fulbright scholar. He is a sought-after speaker and the author of numerous articles and newspaper columns and books on international administrative law and contemporary constitutional issues.

When: Mondays, March 9, 16, 23, and 30, April 6 and 13, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Where: Sherborn Town Hall, Rm. 204A

Cost for six sessions: \$60



From Sidi Bouzid to al-Raqqa: Four Responses to the "Arab Spring"

Today the outcomes of the uprisings known as the "Arab Spring" are different from each other and from American hopes and/or expectations. In four sessions, Wilfrid Rollman will discuss these topics: (1) Tunisia—Democracy Taking Root? (2) Egypt—Return to Authoritarianism, (3) Syria—Uncivil Civil War, (4) ISIS, the "Caliphate" and Iraq.

Instructor: Wilfrid Rollman holds a PhD in history with specializations in North African, Middle Eastern, and Islamic history, religion and culture. He is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at Boston University and spends time each year in Morocco as part of the Wellesley College overseas program.

When: Thursdays, April 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Where: Sherborn Town Hall, Rm. 204A

Cost for four sessions: \$40



Two Elder Statesmen of American Songwriting: Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin

Songwriters of the 20th century have acknowledged a debt to **Jerome Kern** for his influence on American popular music. His music creates a portrait of American song that includes *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* and *The Last Time I Saw Paris*. **Irving Berlin** created more than 3000 songs without learning how to read or write music. He cast a musical spell over America with songs such as *Alexander's Rag Time Band* and *God Bless America*.

Instructor: Jack Craig is a musician, a teacher, a raconteur and a performer who keeps audiences all over New England entertained and informed by his wide-ranging programs.

When: Fridays, April 24 and May 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Woodhaven Community Room

Cost for two sessions: \$25 single/\$40 couple



Opera for Everyone

Come and explore Jacques Offenbach's opera *Tales of Hoffmann* before the Metropolitan Opera's live transmission in HD to be shown in select cinemas on January 31, followed by Rossini's *La Donna del Lago* before its transmission on March 14. Then experience Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci* before they are broadcast on April 25. This course will give you a fresh, in-depth appreciation of these masterpieces and their composers.

Instructor: Erika Reitshamer, a life-long opera lover, has lectured on opera and great singers of opera for many years and was active in the formation of the Boston Lyric Opera Company more than 35 years ago. For many years she led opera tours to Europe and served as vice president of the Boston Wagner Society..

When: Tuesdays, January 27, March 10, March 31 and April 7 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Sherborn Town Hall, Rm. 204A

Cost for four sessions: \$40