Greenfield Community College
Senior Symposia
Fall 2011

Greenfield Community College
Downtown Center
270 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 775-1681
www.gcc.mass.edu
On Gardens
An inspiring two hours... top notch material, fabulous questions and discussion.

On Neuroscience
Superb!! Engaging, informative and helpful.

On Robert Frost
Fantastic, spirited presentation... combination of erudition, wit and appreciation of nature.

On French Opera
Informed, witty, polished and precise... loved hearing the beautiful music.

On Afghanistan
Someone with first-hand experience, a clear mind, and an indomitable spirit.

Health Care and Social Class in the U.S.
Presenter: Sarah Kemble
Wednesday, November 9, 2-4 p.m.
As racial and class divisions continue to widen in the U.S., Kemble contends, the health care system reflects this in numerous ways. A system that was once similar to a public utility with local management, existing solely for the benefit of its local and regional populations, has become instead a massive profit-driven industry that reinforces social class divisions. When the goal of maximizing profits drives health care investments, the quality of care erodes for all, as human caring, scientific integrity, and the needs of patients become incidental. Kemble’s lecture will offer detailed evidence to illustrate these problems and will explore alternative models of health care that might better address our public health needs.

Sarah Kemble, MD, also holds a Masters in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and has worked in community health settings for many years. She has been Chief Quality Officer for the Community Health Center of Franklin County, of which she was the Founder.

The Night Sky: It’s Much More than Just Stars
Presenter: Peter Talmage
Tuesday, November 15, 2-4 p.m.
The night sky is a carpet of stars, as you can see in any place with minimal light pollution. Many of us can recognize patterns in the stars and might even be able to name a few of the constellations. However, besides stars, many more spectacular objects are easily visible to the naked eye or with simple binoculars. The proliferation of computer-based programs and applications for cell phones have made it easier to find and enjoy these phenomena and to enjoy the night sky in new ways. In this symposium Talmage will explore all manner of stellar and non-stellar bodies and review some of the new tools that allow us easy access to them.

Peter Talmage has been an amateur astronomer for over 50 years and has built ten telescopes and four observatories. He is an instructor at Greenfield Community College in the Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Program.
October

The Art of Illustration: But Is It Art?

Presenter: Nick Clark

Thursday, October 27, 2-4 p.m.

Magazine and picture book illustration has long endured an inferior status in the art world, perhaps because it is known primarily through reproduction. Chief Curator of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Nick Clark argues that truly great artists of all genres are deeply steeped in the tradition of art, and that great illustration is indeed great art. To support his thesis, he points to some well-known children’s book illustrators whose work has been influenced by figures in the canon of art history, among them: Eric Carle and Henri Matisse, Ferdinand Leger, and Franz Marc; Maurice Sendak and Albrecht Dürer, William Blake and Winslow Homer; Chris Van Allsburg and Caspar David Friedrich, Winsor McCay, and M.C. Escher.

Founding Director of the Eric Carle Museum prior to becoming its Chief Curator, H. Nicholas B. Clark held posts at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, and the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk VA.

When Unions Mattered:
The Labor Movement and the Middle Class

Presenter: Bruce Laurie

Monday, October 31, 2-4 p.m.

In the wake of recent challenges to workers’ rights illustrated by events in Wisconsin and elsewhere, many people are asking: “What’s happened to the American labor movement? What are the implications for the middle class?” This presentation will open with film footage of the dramatic rise of the modern labor movement in the 1930s, which produced guaranteed incomes, worker benefits, and a system to resolve disputes between labor and management. What came to be known as the New Deal also laid the groundwork for the emergence of a strong middle class. In subsequent decades, however, many gains won by labor have been whittled away, and the union movement itself is now being assailed for contributing to the rising costs of government. Laurie will explore this history and conclude with some provocative thoughts on the future of labor and unions and on the status of the middle class in America.

Bruce Laurie, Professor of History emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is the author of numerous articles and books on the American labor movement, and was associate editor of the 2007 Encyclopedia of U.S. Labor and Working Class History.

About Senior Symposia

The Senior Symposia program at Greenfield Community College is a collaborative effort between Greenfield Community College’s Office of Community Education and area senior citizens to provide a way for area seniors to continue their education in a format that best suits their needs, interests and resources.

Registration Policies

While walk-ins are always welcome, participants are urged to pre-register on the enclosed form. This assists us in planning and, in some cases, ensures you a seat for the lecture(s) of your choice. A full refund will be made if Senior Symposia cancels a symposium for any reason.

Those who pre-register are eligible to request financial assistance. See the space provided on the enclosed pre-registration form.

Bring a friend for free! Guest passes are available at the registration desk for first-time attendees.

Senior Symposia Program Planning

The program is planned by a volunteer committee drawn from the community. The committee welcomes suggestions for topics and speakers. We sometimes have openings on this committee. If you are interested in serving, please email barba@gcc.mass.edu.

In case of inclement weather call: (413) 775-1010.

If GCC is closed, Senior Symposia are cancelled.
First Family: Abigail and John Adams  
**Presenter: Joseph Ellis**  
**Wednesday, September 21, 2-4 p.m.**

Joseph Ellis, known for his best-selling histories about the Founding Fathers, will discuss his most recent book, *First Family: Abigail and John Adams*. His goal in writing this book, says Ellis, was to focus on the unique partnership between this man and woman as revealed in the more than 1,000 letters they wrote to one another. This correspondence, Ellis believes, constitutes one of the most remarkable and long-standing conversations in early American history. As one reviewer has pointed out, Abigail and John Adams, unlike Martha and George Washington, were conscious of the history they were helping to shape and “preserved their correspondence, painstakingly copying as many of their missives as they could...as if future generations were looking over their shoulders.”

**Joseph Ellis**, Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College, received a Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, and a National Book Award in 2007 for *American Sphinx: the Character of Thomas Jefferson*.

From Papyrus to Pixel: The History and Future of the Book  
**Presenter: Martin Antonetti**  
**Wednesday, September 28, 2-4 p.m.**

A day doesn’t pass that we don’t hear dire predictions of the death of the book. With the “Googlization” of everything, the very ways that knowledge and information are being produced and consumed are rapidly changing. In this brave new world of digitization will the book still have a place? Antonetti will respond to this question by looking back at printed books from the 15th through the 19th centuries in order to get a sense of what—beyond the mere words on the page—they can tell us. He will then examine the more contemporary world of printing to understand how authors today create texts in exciting new ways using the book form.

**Martin Antonetti**, curator of rare books at Smith College, also directs the new Book Studies Program there. He teaches courses in the History of the Book at Smith, Simmons, and the University of Virginia.

Lost in Siberia  
**Presenters: Vivian Leskes and Frank Ward**  
**Wednesday, October 5, 2-4 p.m.**

Modern-day Russia, emerging from seventy years of Communist rule, is a country of paradoxes. This symposium will examine the contradictions and confusions of daily life in Russia, Ukraine, and the former Soviet countries of Central Asia, where Vivian Leskes has trained teachers. Leskes will explain the wonder, frustration, and absurdity of working as a teacher of English and as a student of Russian in the former Soviet Union over the last ten years. The presentation will include a brief reading from Leskes’ recently released book *Lost in Siberia* and photographs by award-winning photographer, Frank Ward.

**Vivian Leskes** is Professor of English as a Second Language at Holyoke Community College and English Language Specialist for the U.S. Department of State. In 2008, she spent the winter and spring semester in Irkutsk, Siberia as a Fulbright Scholar. **Frank Ward** has travelled and photographed in Tibet, India, the former Yugoslavia, and the former Soviet Union. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States and Europe. He is Professor of Photography at Holyoke Community College.

Hijacking Islam: The Green Movement in Iran  
**Presenter: Monica Ringer**  
**Wednesday, October 19, 2-4 p.m.**

This year the world has witnessed a wave of uprisings in Arab countries, each revolution unique in its impetus and continuing dynamic. In trying to understand these complex events, Ringer asks us to consider what we might learn from the aftermath of the 1979 Iranian revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed Shah and put Shiite Muslim clergy in power. Focusing on the opposition Green Movement in Iran, Ringer will explore the ways this movement has hijacked Islam from the current clerical government. Using the religious metaphors, rituals and images central to the Islamic government, the Green Movement now deploys those same images against the government itself. In the Green Movement we also see new configurations of popular sovereignty led by young, urban middle-class, media-savvy activists, models now being replicated across the region.

**Monica Ringer** teaches Middle Eastern History at Amherst College and is the former Director of the International Society of Iranian Studies. She is widely published, with particular interest in cultural and religious reform in the secularizing states of the Middle East.