

COMMON GROUND

SPRING-SUMMER 2017 BULLETIN

LIVING WITH THE EDDIES

As you may have noticed, I'm returning these days to the theme of *cultural evolution*, the subject of my 2010 book, *Thriving in the Crosscurrent: Clarity and Hope in a Time of Cultural Sea Change*. Cultural evolution is the slow, steady advance of humanity's most essential cultural values (e.g. peace, justice, and ecological sustainability) toward a closer fit with reality. Thus, for example, "the arc of human history" bends toward peace, justice, and ecological sustainability and away from racism, sexism, hateful nationalism, and violent response to personal and societal identity crisis.

Hold it! (I can almost hear the chorus.) How can we hold out any hope for values-evolution, in the face of so much apparent evidence (these days) to the contrary? Well, the answer is to be found in the *eddies of resistance* to the cultural-evolutionary dynamic.

Eddies are counter-clockwise whirlpools of resistance in a flowing stream. One could almost say that they desperately try to reverse the prevailing

flow. Cultural eddies (you'll see how well the metaphor works) are counter-cultural vortices that struggle against the flow of cultural evolution. Here's one example: "No, women should *not* rise to positions of authority over men!"

Cultural evolution, however, arrives in waves, cultural "value waves," one on the way *up* and one on the way *down*. The *up* wave brings the promise of *cultural evolution*. Things get better, people get wiser, and the convergence is toward cooperation. But then there's the down wave, the backlash. Things seem worse, people get angrier, and there is only divergence.

The question of our age is simple. Will the falling wave *swamp* the rising wave? Or will the rising wave overcome? The older value set has inertia on its side; the newer packs momentum. I'll always bet on momentum against inertia.

So, here's a final thought for now.

Ours today is a continent divided not so much by a geographical, altitudinal watershed as by a seemingly unbridgeable cultural and *attitudinal* barrier. It *does* matter that certain regions of our

land align with particular values-complexes. And it *is* significant that one can, with some success, predict the racial, social, gender, and even scientific (or anti-scientific) leanings of people from *here* as opposed to *there*.

But America is not really divided between the good and the bad, the bright and the dull, or the generous and the selfish. Our current dilemma is to be found in the eternal tension between hope and fear. Often it may seem that fear is winning; but it never truly can, for it springs from uncertainty and ignorance. Hope is always grounded in a clear vision of what *is* and what can yet *be*. And there's the hope in hope.

Jim Kenney
Executive Director, Common Ground

COVER: "Berlin Wall Comes Down," Harry Benson, 1989; courtesy, Pinterest. The poem is an excerpt from Robert Frost's "Mending Wall," the first poem in his second collection of poetry, "North of Boston," published in 1914 by David Nutt.

resource persons

Jim Kenney, CG Executive Director, Executive Director, Common Ground; former Global Director, Parliament of the World's Religions and Project Coordinator, the Peace Council; author, *Thriving in the Crosscurrent*.

Linda Kimball, CG Administrator, former Executive Director, OASIS Chicago; Co-Owner/Director, Great Age Productions; Consultant on Not-for-Profit Management and Development; Licensed Real Estate Broker.

Laura Bernstein, MA, University of Chicago; rabbinical studies, Hebrew Seminary of the Deaf; leader and composer of interfaith chants; author of poetry and articles on spirituality; co-author of *Healing the Jewish-Christian Rift*.

Herbert W. Bronstein, regular CG faculty; Senior Rabbi Emeritus, North Shore Congregation Israel; editor, *Liturgies for the Reform Movement*; lecturer, Lake Forest College; Shakespearean scholar; expert on religions.

Benjamin Goluboff, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Associate Professor, English and Environmental Studies, Lake Forest College; authored scholarly works in American Literature; published imaginative writing.

Rosemary Hurwitz, MA, PS, Loyola University; twenty years experience in career consulting and in leading retreats for Discovery weekends; over ten years studying the Enneagram, certified in 2001.

Kenneth James, regular CG faculty; diplomate Jungian psychoanalyst in private practice; Ph.D., Northwestern University; Diploma in Analytical Psychology, C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago; Director of Student Services at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

Carl Jerome, regular CG faculty; founding teacher, North Shore Meditation and Dharma Center; Senior

Dharma Teacher, Mid-America Buddhist Association; meditation teacher, Cancer Wellness Center, Northbrook.

Jerrold Leitner, regular CG faculty; M.A., Theology, St. John University, Collegeville, MN; M.A., English, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL; retired; 40 years teaching English and Theology.

Pamela Mayers, MA in Reading Instruction and Guidance and Counseling, Northeastern Illinois University; Ed.D, National-Louis University; 38 years teaching at elementary and college level; Certified Guided Autobiography Instructor.

Mary Miritello, M.A., English, DePaul University; doctoral studies in American Literature, U. of Chicago; adjunct faculty in Dept. of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse, DePaul University; former associate director of Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program.

Michelle Paluch-Mishur, Ph.D., Co-owner and operator of Art Excursions, Inc.; art historian; university professor; designs and leads guided tours focusing on art, architecture, natural and cultural treasures; lecturer

John Nygro, musician, conductor, actor; lecturer on subjects from classical theater and opera to medieval and Renaissance music to film and television; presenter at Northwestern University, Newberry Library, Lyric Opera of Chicago Chapters, and Center for Life and Learning; regular instructor on classical radio stations and NPR.

Maurice Pickard, MD, regular CG faculty; medical school, University of Illinois College of Medicine; residency, University of Illinois Hospital, Chicago and the University of California; retired from private practice and currently focused on ethics in medicine.

Ahmad Sadri, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., New School for

Social Research; College Professor of Islamic World Studies, Lake Forest College; author of several books, in Persian and in English, including *Max Weber's Sociology of Individuals* and his recent translation of the *Shanameh* (the *Persian Book of Kings*).

Nancy Tuchman, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., Aquatic Ecology; Founding Dean, Institute of Environmental Sustainability, Loyola University, Chicago.

Pauline Viviano, regular CG faculty; Ph.D., Biblical Languages and Literature, St. Louis University; Associate Professor of Theology, Loyola University, Chicago; recently completed a commentary on the Books of Jeremiah and Baruch for the new Collegeville Commentary Series.

John Wasik, regular CG faculty; M.A., the University of Illinois-Chicago; has lectured across the U.S.; author of 13 books including his latest, *Lightning Strikes*.

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MORNING LECTURES

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held at the Deerfield Center.

TUESDAY MORNINGS

TUESDAYS, APRIL 25-MAY 9
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39
JIM KENNEY

THE FOURTH TURNING— BANNON'S BIBLE

What drives the toxic ideology of Stephen K. Bannon, Donald Trump's principal strategic advisor? It may well be *The Fourth Turning*. Bannon is known to be an adherent of the "generational" theory advanced by authors William Strauss and Neil Howe. Their core concept is that American history moves from crisis, through stages of awakening, to crisis. And the "fourth turning" model suggests that the next crisis is upon us. Bannon is an enthusiast. We'll explore the "generational" model and take a closer look at Steve Bannon. It's all about something we should all know. (Not about the "fourth turning" but about Bannon.)

TUESDAYS, MAY 16-JUNE 6
9:30-11:30 AM (4 WEEKS) \$52
JIM KENNEY

THE CHANGING MIDDLE EAST— COUNTRY PROFILES

Where should we start? Iran, Iraq, Syria, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Turkey, and Egypt? Of course. But we'll also visit many other nations, ranging from the volatile to the very promising. Along the way, we'll visit some significant Muslim regions in Africa, and even touch on South East Asia. What will we find? Complexity, variety, inconsistency, and volatility; but also creativity, openness, humor, and democracy.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13-27
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39
JIM KENNEY

THE ANTI-ENLIGHTENMENT— THE RISE OF THE UNINFORMED

The European Enlightenment, particularly in France and Scotland, gave rise to what we now fondly refer to as the "Age of Reason." These days, it often seems that we have lost that precious foothold. This workshop examines the animating ideas of the Enlightenment in the effort to catalogue the "dumbing down" of American culture in our time. But we will also find reason to believe that the gains of the Enlightenment—reason, justice, human improvement, and the better society—are not lost and, really, cannot be.



TUESDAYS, JULY 11-25
JULY 11-25 (NO CLASS JULY 4)
9:30-11:30 AM (3 WEEKS) \$39
JIM KENNEY

DARK CYBER— FROM CRIME TO WARFARE

From Big Data to Big Dark, we've come a long way on a disturbing journey. From identity theft to corporate espionage to inter-governmental hacking...a newer, darker world has opened up. What are the implications for personal security, electoral integrity, and even global combat? We'll take a look at Big Data and move quickly into the intriguing, mystifying, Big Dark.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

"THE HUMAN SEARCH"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15
JIM KENNEY

HUSTON SMITH— A LIFE AMONG THE RELIGIONS

He knew them all, intimately. He engaged with each and critiqued every one. He was Huston Smith, the premier student and scholar of the world's religions. Jim knew him and interacted frequently with him. More to the point, he read Huston's extraordinary works, which he will share with us in this brief workshop.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3-10
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26
JERROL LEITNER

THE GOSPELS

Who wrote the gospels, and when? Why are there four gospels? Why are Mark, Matthew, and Luke similar but John so different? Why do the gospels often contradict each other? Who decided to include these four gospels in the New Testament while many others didn't make the cut? Are the gospels trustworthy depictions of Jesus of Nazareth? And how should the gospels texts be interpreted? We'll discuss these and other intriguing questions as we examine four of the world's most influential writings.

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 17-24
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26
PAULINE VIVIANO

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER— BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

How do you indict your own king/leader? How do you oppose foreign rulers who hold your life in their hands? How

do you confront priests and prophets who are supposed to speak of God to you? These questions will be addressed as we review several stories of the Bible where courageous individuals "speak truth to power." Among the stories we will consider will be Nathan's indictment of David (2 Samuel 12), Esther's intervention on behalf of the Jews, and Jesus before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate.

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 31-JUNE 7
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26
MAURICE PICKARD

REFLECTIONS ON GENDER AND ON GENETICS

Week One: Understanding the rights of the LGBT community entails the erosion of prejudice but erosion is a slow process. Arguably no other social minority has made as much legal progress in such a short time but this story is far from over. One of the greatest concerns lies in the significant health disparities that exist.

Week Two: Are we ready to change the human genome and what will that mean in areas of decision-making and parenthood. Do you want a "designer baby" just when we are beginning to understand and even to celebrate diversity? When we override the results of the genetic lottery we might lose our capacity to see ourselves as sharing a common fate. Can we trust this future?

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 14-21
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26
KENNETH JAMES

PSYCHIC EVOLUTION— AN ARCHETYPAL PERSPECTIVE

The concept of evolution, understood as the adaptive change of a species through time in response to environmental conditions, has been applied to many fields outside of biology where it originated. How can the notion of "evolution" be applied to the psyche? In particular, how might the concept of psychic evolution be understood from the perspective of Carl Jung's Analytical Psychology? In this series, the work of C.G. Jung, and of Jungian analyst and scholar J.R. Haule will be examined in order to come to a clearer understanding of how the psyche evolves, and what this means for the ways we understand the collective unconscious.

WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 28-JULY 5
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26
HERBERT BRONSTEIN AND JIM KENNEY

SCIENCE V. RELIGION— NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

Religion has been fighting a defensive battle against science since the late 19th century. In

Wednesday Mornings continued on p. 3.

WEDNESDAY AM WORKSHOPS (CONTINUED)

more recent times, there seems to have been something of a reversal and a renewed assertiveness on the part of religious thinkers in regard to the search for truth, values, and world outlook.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
9:30-11:30 AM (1 WEEK) \$15
CARL JEROME

WHEN DIFFICULT TIMES ARISE, REMEMBER

Two great Buddhist philosophers offered two very different approaches to coping with hard times. Nagarjuna suggested that we remember the Two Truths. Vasubandhu offered the Three Natures. By embracing both, we discover that there are no "difficult times," there are only times that appear to be difficult. We'll explore these and other intriguing ideas as we touch on four of the world's most influential writings.

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 19-26
9:30-11:30 AM (2 WEEKS) \$26
JIM KENNEY

GREAT VOICES IN RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY— YOGANANDA, AND WATTS

This workshop is the first in an occasional series on some of the Great Voices in the world's religious and spiritual traditions. In this two-week program, we'll encounter two influential and inspiring figures. First, we'll reflect on the life and spirituality of one of the most powerful bridges between East and West, the great Indian sage, Paramahansa Yogananda (who was, by the way, Jim's introduction to the spiritual life.) Then, we'll encounter the irrepressible, controversial, and always inspiring Alan Watts, the "guru" of the sixties.



CG SUMMER HIATUS JULY 27 - SEPTEMBER 12

Common Ground will begin our Summer Hiatus on July 27. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 12. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall. And don't forget to check the CG website regularly. It's www.cg.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FORUM

SOMETHING NEW AT CG...

The popularity of the Fireside Chat series has inspired us to try a different approach on Wednesday nights. Usually on the second Wednesday of each month, the CG Forum will provide the opportunity for open and interactive discussion with Jim Kenney (and occasional friends) on a variety of timely topics. The format includes opening remarks by Jim (and his guests) and then a lively Q and A segment. There will always be time allowed for "off-topic" questions and discussion.

FORUM PRESENTATIONS WILL USUALLY BE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE CG CENTER (DEERFIELD)
7:00-8:30 P.M. • \$15/FORUM
PRE-REGISTRATION IS ADVISED.

MAY 10
7:00-8:30 PM (\$15)
JIM KENNEY

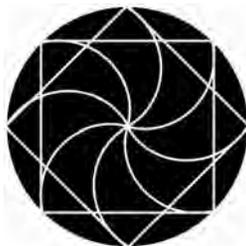
AMERICA'S WAR ON SCIENCE

How did it happen in America? How did the world's leader in scientific research and achievement become an internationally embarrassing stronghold of a powerful and dangerous anti-science movement? Let's talk.

JUNE 14
7:00-8:30 PM (\$15)
JIM KENNEY AND AHMAD SADRI
**AMERICA'S CHANGING
POLITICAL MAP**

Has the American center really shifted to the right? That's the conventional wisdom. But is it correct? Delve into it with Jim and Ahmad.

JULY 12
7:00-8:30 PM (\$15)
JIM KENNEY AND JOHN WASIK
**THE U.S. AND THE GLOBAL
ECONOMY—WHAT'S IN STORE?**
Is "Trumponomics" really a thing? If so, what does it portend for the U.S and the world? The big questions are what's up and where are we headed? Join Jim and John.



MAKING COMMON GROUND POSSIBLE BEYOND 2017

Common Ground needs your help, now more than ever, to make sure we can continue our good but difficult work. We have to raise our fundraising target. Simply put, we need to bring in \$150,000 by June 30, 2017, the end of our fiscal year. Actually, our supporters have always been generous and this new goal is within reach.

We have always operated a fiscally lean organization, but you should know that we are taking steps to trim our expense budget significantly, including a reduction in staff pay. We remain committed to keeping tuition costs at their current, very affordable level and to compensating our resource persons fairly (though never as generously as they certainly deserve). We will do our best. We ask you to continue to help Common Ground to flourish, and – if possible – to increase the amount of your support. We know that our loyal participants think the CG experience is worth it.



*CG's Founders
(Ron Miller and Jim Kenney)*



COMMON GROUND SATELLITE PROGRAMS

CG CHICAGO

77 West Washington St. at Clark, Chicago. Usually on Thursdays, 7-9 pm, \$10. Presented in partnership with the Swedenborg Library. (For information: 312-346-7003.) **Note day change.**

**MAY 4 • KENNETH JAMES
PSYCHIC EVOLUTION—**

AN ARCHETYPAL PERSPECTIVE

The concept of evolution, understood as the adaptive change of a species through time in response to environmental conditions, has been applied to many fields outside of biology where it originated. How can the notion of "evolution" be applied to the psyche? In particular, how might the concept of psychic evolution be understood from the perspective of Carl Jung's Analytical Psychology? In this series, the work of C.G. Jung and of Jungian analyst and scholar J.R. Haule will be examined in order to come to a clearer understanding of how the psyche evolves, and what this means for the ways we understand the collective unconscious.

**JUNE 1 • PAULINE VIVIANO
PAUL'S THEOLOGY—
RELEVANT OR OBSOLETE?**

Paul of Tarsus was a controversial character in his own day and remains so today. He is acknowledged by some as the greatest Christian theologian, but for others he is to be condemned for distorting the gospel. By focusing on the Paul's epistles to the Romans and to the Corinthians we will explore the theological and practical sides of Paul's understanding of salvation as achieved in Jesus' death and resurrection and consider whether Paul's theology continues to have meaning for us today.

CG CRYSTAL LAKE

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Pierson and Florence Streets, Crystal Lake; usually, 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:30 pm, \$10. Follow Rte. 14 (Northwest Highway) to Florence St., one block southeast of Dole Ave. Go south on Florence for one block. Parking behind the church. Enter through west side door.

**APRIL 27 • JIM KENNEY (NOTE DATE CHANGE)
RUSSIA, PUTIN, AND POWER**

Understanding Russia and Russian internal politics has always been a challenge. But never more so than today, as Russia-watchers find themselves pondering Churchill's enduring "riddle-mystery-enigma" one-liner while try-

ing to decipher Vladimir Putin's latest improbabilities. Bullying former Warsaw Pact allies, hacking Democratic Party emails, dabbling in the Facebook "fake news" affair, and perhaps even hatching some bizarre strategy with Donald Trump as unwitting stalking horse, and then meddling in the U.S. election? What is the thoughtful analyst to make of this increasingly aggressive strongman, as he grows more worrisome to Europe, China, and the U.S., and less and less popular in his homeland?

**MAY 11 • PAULINE VIVIANO
PAUL'S THEOLOGY—RELEVANT
OR OBSOLETE?**

(See description under CG Chicago.)

**JUNE 8 • AHMAD SADRI
"CAT AND MOUSE"—A MUSLIM
FABLE ON HUMAN NATURE**

This lecture will explore a seven-hundred-year-old satirical poem. The poet is Obeyd of Zakan (circa 1300-1370 CE) who lived in perilous times, between the two devastating invasions of Iran by the Mongol and Uzbek hordes. Obeyd wrote a great deal of traditional prose and poetry but he is known for his satire. *The Fable of the Cat and Mouse* (a 75-line poem) is his most famous work. Ahmad translated it in the summer of 2014, while in Tehran, preserving the rhyme and the unique play on meter that gives the poem its immortal form. Despite its playful surface, this fable offers a unique philosophical anthropology and political philosophy that is a profound reflection of the chaotic times of the poet. Its themes are powerfully relevant to human culture regardless of time and place, perhaps especially to our own troubled period.

CG GLENVIEW

CG Glenview is hosted by the Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm Street, Glenview 60025. Park behind the church and enter through the Church Office door. Lectures are usually held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 7:00-9:00 pm, \$10.

**MAY 17 • AHMAD SADRI
BEING MUSLIM IN AMERICA**
Being Muslim has not been easy since the events of 9/11. Indeed it has gotten increasingly difficult to live with that designation – e.g., for someone who was expelled from an airplane for looking Middle Eastern six months after those events. The election of Donald Trump has been a leap backward in that worsening trend. Islamophobia was one of the hallmarks of Donald Trump's campaign and the picks for his cabinet reflect that cultural background. This talk will address the

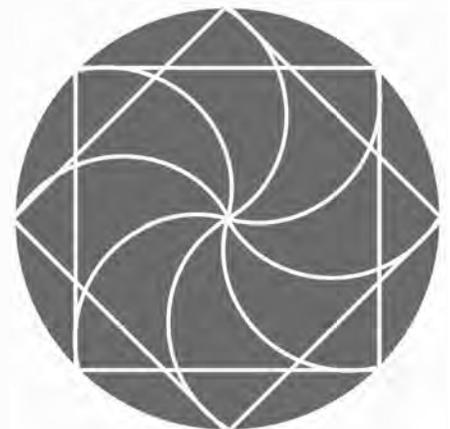
ways in which Muslims can respond to this challenge.

**JUNE 21 • PAULINE VIVIANO
PAUL'S THEOLOGY—
RELEVANT OR OBSOLETE?**
(See description under CG Chicago.)

CG GRAYSLAKE

CG Grayslake is hosted by the Wildwood Presbyterian Church, 18630 W. Old Gages Lake Road, Grayslake, IL 60030. Park in the lot and use the main entrance. Lectures are usually held monthly, as indicated in the Bulletin, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, \$10.

**APRIL 28 • JIM KENNEY
THE MAN WHO LOVED CHINA**
Joseph Needham was a brilliant Cambridge scientist and a bit of an eccentric; but he loved China, its history, and its culture. A biochemist, Needham was particularly drawn to Chinese science and the many areas in which its accomplishments anticipated much later Western developments. The first volume of his magnificent *Science and Civilization in China* was published in 1954 and eighteen volumes were released before his death in 1995. There are now 24, with more to come. As the workshop unfolds, we'll take up what's known as "the Needham question" — why did the meteoric rise of modern science take place in the West, rather than in China?



A Meditation

from the December 2010 issue of *Interreligious Insight*

An Intelligent Rich Person

by Kabir



Busia Orphans, Kenya; photo, Todd Lorenz

I don't think there is such a thing as
an intelligent mega-rich
person.

For who with a fine mind can look
out upon this world and hoard

what can nourish
a thousand
souls?

Kabir (c. 1440-1519) ranks among the world's greatest poets. He strongly influenced the Hindu devotional movement and is one of the most quoted authors in Indian literature. He is revered in many traditions, although he criticized all of them in one way or another. This selection is taken, with permission of the author, from Love Poems from God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West, Daniel Ladinsky (2002, Penguin Compass).

FEES AND REGISTRATION

PROGRAM FEES

LECTURE SERIES

2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-week Lecture Series:
Entire series \$26, \$39, \$52, \$65,
\$78; single session \$15

SINGLE LECTURES

Single evening presentations \$15 or
\$13 with CG Pass;
Satellites: \$10/lecture (no discounts)
Student discount: \$8 for all 2-hour
lectures
(No other discounts)

LECTURE PASSES

“Lecture Passes” may be used for
all CG
Deerfield and CG Satellite
(except Naples) *lecture* programs
and *workshop* sessions. They are
not valid for “Special Events”
offerings.
Passes may be purchased at the
CG Center
or by calling or writing.
Passes: 5 Sessions/\$65; 10 Ses-
sions: \$130.

**If you have questions about the CG pro-
gram, please contact Linda Kimball at
the CG Center
(Linda@cg.org OR 847-940-7870).**

Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at
the CG Center (adjacent to the Christ United
Methodist Church, at 815 Rosemary Terrace,
just north of Deerfield Rd.). It is one block
east of Waukegan Rd. and two miles west of
Route 41 at the Deerfield Rd. exit. You can
pre-register for classes online, at the CG web
site, www.cg.org or by calling the CG Cen-
ter.

**COMMON GROUND,
P.O. BOX 1435
DEERFIELD, IL 60015**

**TEL.: (847) 940-7870
FAX: (847) 940-7872
Linda@cg.org**

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THE COMMON GROUND TRIBUTE FUND

Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special occa-
sion.... Remember a departed friend or loved one....
Show your gratitude and admiration for the
notable contributions of a special person.... Or
sponsor a program at Common Ground to show
your appreciation of our work. You can do all of
these things with a gift to the CG Tribute Fund.

Marilyn Biederer
In Memory of Ron Miller

Peggy Bradley
In Memory of Ron Miller

Peggy Burns
In Memory of Norm Burns

Nancy Greenebaum
In Memory of Karl Zerfoss

Ann Hewitt
In Memory of Joyce Hewitt

Fran Kapp
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In Memory of Ron Miller

Marilyn Biederer
In Honor of Jim Kenney

Suzanne Greenwald
In Honor of Satsang

Linda Kimball
*In Honor of the Common Ground
Board of Directors*

Janet Reed
In Honor of Elizabeth Werrenrath

Sponsorship of Third Thursday Series
Gloria Callaci and Larry Suffredin

SPECIAL EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all Special Events are held at the CG Center in Deerfield.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

1:00-3:00 PM \$20

MICHELLE MISHUR

PINCHED PAINTINGS—

ART HEISTS IN ART HISTORY

In this lecture, Dr. Michelle Mishur discusses a selection of history's most notorious art heists, some that have been solved and others that still remain open. Her first exposure to this subject came as a result of living and researching in Venice, Italy. The church adjacent to where she lived had a painting stolen that was never recovered. Dr. Mishur's discussion features art crimes that involved The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, and more.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

1:00-3:00 PM \$20

JIM KENNEY, AHMAD SADRI, MAURICE

PICKARD, NANCY TUCHMAN

WINDOW ON OUR

TURBULENT WORLD

This very special CG panel discussion brings together four different but convergent perspectives on the eddying course of our changing world. We'll touch on economics, sociology, religions, science, health, and politics as we bring several areas of expertise to bear on some of the most important questions emerging in a troubling time.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

1:00-3:00 PM \$15

JIM KENNEY

DYSTOPIAS—ANTI-UTOPIAS

George Orwell did it so well (especially in *Animal Farm* and *1984*) that we now use the term "Orwellian" to name eras in which an ominous political malaise undermines civil (and civilizing) society. Aldous Huxley brought a very different but no less chilling perspective to his epic *Brave New World*. More recently, Margaret Atwood has given us *The Handmaid's Tale*, with extraordinary insights into the subjugation of women under a totalitarian "theocracy." All three authors have something to help us in our current struggle to make sense of the American present...and future. All three help us understand the difference between fear and hope.



THIRD THURSDAYS

THE THEME FOR THIS SERIES:

THE WORLD OF LITERATURE

These special programs, featuring presentations on the arts and humanities will be held on the third Thursdays of May, June, and July, from 1:00-2:30 pm. \$39 for the series or \$15 per session. Deerfield Center.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

1:00-2:30 PM (\$15)

MARY MIRITELLO

THOREAU—

MAKING TIME FOR NATURE

Does your busy life make you yearn for an opportunity to slow down and make time for nature? Here's a chance to get to know Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), one of America's most beloved nature writers. For generations, Thoreau's literary classic, *Walden; or Life in the Woods* (1854) has opened the doors to new ways of seeing and appreciating nature. What might he teach us about how to live our lives more fully and more deeply, with greater balance? Let's welcome Thoreau as our companion and guide. Together, we can learn how to see nature with new eyes.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

1:00-2:30 PM (\$15)

JOHN NYGRO

SHAKESPEARE AND

THE 21ST CENTURY

What does Shakespeare say about refugees, sexual assault, and secretive leadership? Although written over four hundred years ago, the plays *Sir Thomas More*, *Cymbeline*, and *Richard III* seem to have a special modern relevance. In this discussion, we'll see how Shakespeare's wise observations on these topics can be interpreted as modern insights. And we'll remark again on his genius.

THURSDAY, JULY 20 BENJAMIN GOLUBOFF

1:00-2:30 PM (\$15)

BENJAMIN GOLUBOFF

THROUGH THE LITERARY LENS—

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Americans have written about the environment from colonial times to the present moment of environmental crisis, creating a colorful tradition of literature in dialogue with the nation's diverse landscapes. This talk will give an outline of that tradition as we explore works from a wide variety of writers such as, Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, and Rachel Carson. Topics will include landscape and American nationalism, the social construction of landscapes and animals, and versions of the vitally important land ethic.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AT COMMON GROUND

MEDITATION

EVERY MONDAY, 7:00-8:30 PM

LAURA BERNSTEIN

Free-will offering goes to CG.

Eknath Easwaran was one of the 20th century's great meditation masters. Our ongoing *satsang* (spiritual community) studies his profound, pluralistic teachings (known as the 8-point program) and practices "passage meditation," a unique method of stilling the mind and translating spiritual ideals into daily living. Contact Laura before attending: LJBernstein339@gmail.com.

THE ENNEAGRAM

FRIDAYS THROUGH MAY 15

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

ROSEMARY HURWITZ

Free-will offering goes to Rosemary and CG.

(Sessions will begin again in mid-September; check with the office if you have questions. Call Rosemary for more information: 847-334-2558.)

What is the Enneagram? The term is derived from the Greek and refers to the "nine-pointed" star-like figure within a circle which represents 9 universal personality types. Left to us by seekers and mystical thinkers well over two thousand years ago, it has within it, a powerful compass which leads us to our essence, and can help us know and anchor our purpose. In this ongoing course, you will gain an in-depth understanding of your own type and of the profound "wellness map" that lies within.

A NEW CG OFFERING!

GUIDED AUTOBIOGRAPHY

THURSDAYS, MAY 11-JUNE 15

6 WEEKS \$70

(PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN ALL SESSIONS!

PRE-REGISTRATION STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

9:30-11:30 AM

PAMELA MAYERS

Guided Autobiography is a class to assist people of all ages in writing their memoirs. What makes the course unique is that participants write essays on specific themes and then share them with group members in confidence. No previous creative writing experience is necessary, and essays are not critiqued.



Before I built a wall I'd ask to know
 What I was walling in or walling out,
 And to whom I was like to give offense.
 Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
 That wants it down.
 Robert Frost

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Common Ground
 Religion, spirituality, philosophy,
 and culture in the 21st century.
 Our 43rd Year!

THE CG WEDNESDAY NIGHT FORUM
 • MAY 10 • THE WAR ON SCIENCE
 • JUNE 14 • AMERICA'S POLITICAL MAP
 * JULY 12 • THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

COMMON GROUND
 815 ROSEMARY TERRACE
 (MAIL P.O. BOX 1435)
 DEERFIELD, IL 60015
 TEL. (847) 940-7870
 FAX (847) 940-7872
 WWW.CG.ORG
 CONTACT@CG.ORG

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