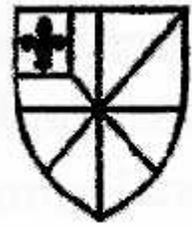




# Albion Area Lifelong Learners



Albion College

Fall 2013 Newsletter

## 2013 Fall Assembly

September 12, 2013 - First United Methodist Church, (Fellowship Lounge)

3:30 p.m. – Registration

Presentation: Telescope Making in America from Philadelphia to Albion

4 p.m.

Over 400 years ago, in 1608, the first documented telescope was demonstrated. But in the New World, it would take another 150 years for production of a telescope to occur in the American colonies and then almost another century before American telescope making rivaled European manufacturing. However, once rolling, American telescope making gained a world wide reputation for bold innovation, ever larger telescopes, and increasingly sophisticated instruments used with those telescopes for ground breaking research. Much of the impetus for bigger and better telescopes came not only from college and university research astronomers but also from their prestige-seeking administrators looking to equip their institutions with impressive observatories that demonstrated their schools' progressive science departments. By the latter 19th Century, even smaller institutions such as Albion were able to take advantage of top quality home grown telescopes at reasonable prices from any of several leading makers.

Bart Fried is the founder and current President of the Antique Telescope Society and a recipient of the Society's Newton award. He is also a private scholar studying the life and work of eminent American telescope maker Dr. John A. Brashear. He has published various scholarly articles, given numerous lectures, and consulted on a documentary film regarding Brashear. Currently Bart is in the process of writing a new biography about Brashear. Bart also lectures around the country to astronomical societies and civic groups on a variety of other History of the Telescope related topics. Professionally, Bart has been the Director of Business Development for a U.S. glass fabricator and importer since 2005. Prior to that he has owned several industrially related business including metal plating, rotational molding, and lighting manufacturing. Bart is

### Subscribe to Albion College's E-Newsletter, "Britonline"

Stay up to date with the latest news and events from Albion College through our e-newsletter, Britonline.

The Britonline is sent to alumni, parents, community members, and subscribers once a month. To subscribe: highlight link below, paste in browser "location" line, Go to...

<http://www.albion.edu/ia/alumniengagement/stay-connected/subscribe-to-e-news>

Click on "Subscribe" and fill in the information asked for. (Also, check out the archive links as well)

# AALL Course Descriptions, Fall, 2013

Registration required

**LA BOHEME and RENT: A COMPARISON OF PUCCINI'S OPERA TO JONATHAN LARSON'S MUSICAL BASED UPON IT.** Maureen Balke, D.M., Professor of Music (Voice), Albion College. Mondays, 2:00-4:00, October 7, 14, 21, 28. Albion College Goodrich 145.

Puccini's beloved opera *La Boheme* (1896) is based upon stories and characters from *Scenes de la vie de boheme* by Henri Murger (1845-51). Many adaptations and film versions (including silent films) have since appeared, based loosely on either the novel or the opera. Perhaps the most controversial work based on the opera is the Pulitzer and Tony Award winning 1996 musical *RENT*. Composer and librettist Jonathan Larson wrote *RENT* in loving tribute to the opera, updating the setting and year from 1840s Paris to 1989 New York City, and "modernizing" the plight of the "starving artists" and "bohemians" to reflect present-day obstacles such as drug addiction and the AIDS epidemic.

This class will compare and contrast the opera and the musical, using a "classic" performance of the opera starring Luciano Pavarotti, and the film adaptation of the musical *RENT* from 2006, which includes many of the original Broadway cast members. We will also briefly touch upon a seminal chapter from Murger's novel which can be seen as the basis for both opera and musical.

[NOTE: The film *RENT* is rated PG-13, Parents Strongly Cautioned, for "mature thematic material involving drugs and sexuality, and for some strong language."]

Recommended reading: Class MAY read/view in advance, if they wish, but it is NOT required:

Murger, Henri: *Scenes de la vie de boheme*, Chapter 18: Francine's Muff. Free download from Gutenberg Project. (Will be handed out in first class)

Larson, Jonathan: *RENT*, the musical, film adaptation 2006 (will be seen in class)

Puccini, Giacomo: *La Boheme* (opera), San Francisco opera 1976, Pavarotti/Freni (will be seen in class) .

**DON QUIXOTE PART 1.** Kalen Oswald, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Modern Languages and Cultures Department, Albion College. Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00, October 8, 15, 22, 29. Vulgamore Hall, room to be announced.

*"The best novel in history: 100 renown authors select 'El Quijote' in a survey conducted by the Nobel Institute."*

Thus reads the title of a full page article in *El País* from Wednesday, May 8, 2002. Very few would argue that Miguel de Cervantes's work *El ingenioso hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha* is a masterpiece of world literature. Virtually everybody has heard of Don Quixote and Sancho, and most have seen some representation of their (mis)adventures, be it the Broadway hit "Man of La Mancha," the more contemporary made for TV movie starring Jon Lithgow, or Mr. Magoo's Don Quixote. The verb phrase "tilting windmills" and the adjective "quixotic" are found in English dictionaries. Nevertheless, the fraternity of humankind that has actually read the novel is still relatively small. It is about time we take the first step to make that fellowship a little larger. With this masterpiece Cervantes radically changed narrative fiction and thereby initiated the invention of the modern novel. As we study Part I of *Don Quixote*, we will learn why it was so innovative for its time and how it has affected the development of the novel. Among other aspects of the novel, we will examine narratology, intertextuality, irony, the relationship between fiction and history, and parody and satire. Reading and analyzing this work—the first great modern novel—can be a challenging, but life changing experience.

(FYI... I have preliminary plans to teach Part II of *Don Quixote* some time in 2015, to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication.)

Recommended reading: Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de. *Don Quixote*. Trans. Edith Grossman, New York: Eco, 2005. Cost: \$ 16.99.

continued

**CHANCE AND PROBABILITY.** Mark Bollman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Albion College. Wednesdays, 2:00-4:00, October 9, 16, 23, 30. Science Complex, room to be announced.

These two words, “chance” and “probability,” are frequently found together in casual English use. While this is by no means improper, the two ideas are not identical, and we shall study both of them in this exploration of probability topics.

Probability is a branch of mathematics that finds its roots in gambling, but it has come to encompass far more than that. In this course, we shall trace the origin of probability from its earliest days to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, focusing most strongly on the elements of our subject that are most significant for the educated non-specialist citizen. Applications will be drawn from medicine, law, games, and other areas that may be of interest to participants.

An optional end-of-course field trip to the Fire Keepers Casino in Battle Creek is planned, so that we might have the opportunity to compare theory and practice. Those who choose to go may carpool.

**Recommended reading:** Probability: A Very Short Introduction by John Haigh. Cost: \$11.95. This book lives up to its title, coming in at under 130 pages while hitting all of the most significant ideas without requiring any advanced mathematical prerequisites.

**HOW EARLY CHRISTIANS READ THE BIBLE.** Jeremy Williams, Ph.D., Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Albion. Mondays 10:00-12:00, October 7, 14, 21, 28. Methodist Church, Wesley Lounge.

People have been reading the Bible since before it became the Bible. Christians argue about the Bible, from the Bible, and even with the Bible. How different people read and talk about the Bible teaches us about how they think about many other things. This is just as true of people a long time ago as it is today.

This course is an attempt to get to know the minds and lives of early Christians through the window of how they read and talked about the Bible. We will cover about four centuries, from the New Testament writers and Jesus, through Augustine, a Latin-speaking African bishop, to the first Council of Ephesus in 431.

Jeremy Williams will be teaching, using the draft of his new (still unfinished) book of the same title. Jeremy is the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Albion and wrote his doctoral dissertation for the University of Notre Dame on the use of Scripture in Church councils through the seventh century. His new work focuses, not on the official statements of the Church, but on the social and intellectual setting behind Christian approaches to Scripture.

**EVOLUTION OF WEAVING: FROM FINGERS TO ELECTRONIC LOOM.** Martha O’Kennon, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Albion College. Thursday 9:45-11:45, October 10, 17, 24, 31. Albion College Library, Mudd 210. Note: \$5:00 fee. Class size limit: 30 persons.

In order to show the class the diversity of weaving we must look at a broad range of weaving techniques such as finger weaving, card weaving, double weaving, and backstrap weaving. Weaving on the following items: picture frames, books, hoops, pegboards, and beka looms (good for tapestry). Ikat technique, for example, could use branches to start developing a design. We will look at the development of weaving in many places and show how the technology of the loom spread from a few centers to become a worldwide resource. The student will learn how to make a warp, and how to get the loom to do as much as possible to execute a pattern. There will be a brief introduction to floor looms with a chance to try out one of mine. Each student will design and start executing one or more small weavings which will give the experience to design a larger project on his/her own.

When I took my first course in weaving, the teacher included time (maybe two hours each) after the class was over for each student to test out the floor loom. It was a very special part of the course and since it was at her house we had a little more chance to get some one-on-one advice and also to experiment on our own. After everyone had finished, the whole warp was cut apart so they could have their work. I will offer this experience at my home after the class.

**NATURE'S MYTHS, PHOBIAS, AND PHENOMENA!** David Green, B.A., Director, Whitehouse Nature Center. Tuesdays 10:00-12:00, October 1, 8, 15, 22. Whitehouse Nature Center. Class size limit: 25 persons.

The ordinary will become the extraordinary. This series of classes will investigate Michigan's unique, amazing, and often misunderstood flora and fauna. Are there cougar and bear in Michigan? Is hogweed as bad as they say it is? Are Daddy-long legs poisonous? Are there sea lamprey in the Kalamazoo River? Learn about the direct connection Albion College has with the nationally-celebrated Arbor Day. Each of the four classes will heighten your appreciation and understanding of our local insects, reptiles, mammals, plants, and birds. There will be inside lectures and outdoor excursions on the Whitehouse Nature Center's trails. Come prepared to go outdoors rain or shine. Easy walking with slight inclines up to a mile per class.

## **THE BIOLOGY OF SUBTROPICAL FLORIDA**

In consultation with the AALL Curriculum Committee, Dr. Jeffrey Carrier, Albion College Professor Emeritus of Biology, has developed a course entitled "The Biology of Subtropical Florida." After three or four preliminary sessions in Albion, the course will consist primarily of an eight day tour of biologically significant sites in southern Florida. Among the sites visited will be the Florida Keys, including Key West, The Dry Tortugas, The Everglades, Corkscrew Swamp, The Archbold Biological Station, and Sea World where participants will be provided a behind-the-scenes tour. A pilot version of the course is scheduled for March 5-13, 2014, at a cost of \$1800 per participant (double occupancy). This fee covers air fare, ground travel, lodging, and entrance fees, but not food. Half the fee, \$900, is due when participants enroll. People wishing to sign up for the class, or, if it fills, to be placed on a waiting list, should contact Hal or Missy Wyss, [melissawyss1@mac.com](mailto:melissawyss1@mac.com). A full description of the class written by Dr. Carrier is available on the AALL website: [albionaall.org](http://albionaall.org).



Fall Class Announcements

Fall 2013 Newsletter

AALL  
P.O. Box 188  
Albion, Michigan 49224

## AALL Officers

President :	Robin Reed
Vice President:	John Kondelik
Treasurers:	David Hogberg, Alice Cook
Secretary:	Hal Wyss
Editor, Newsletter:	Dick Lewin



## New AALL Website: AlbionAALL.org

You will be able to view, and download the PDF and some Word versions of AALL's newsletters, class descriptions, and the registration form to be filled in and sent to the registrar. On-line registration may be available in the near future. Information about each term will be posted as soon as available.

Also on the site are photos from AALL classes and other information about AALL. Please check it out!

Send suggestions and material for the web site to Dave Kammer: [dkammer@albion.edu](mailto:dkammer@albion.edu)

## AALL Membership

If you are not already an AALL member, or if you have not paid your 2013-2014 dues, a membership form is included at the bottom of the "Course Registration" form. Dues are \$20 per person, per year, with the year running from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

Members may take one (1) free course per term (fall, winter, spring). There is a charge of \$10 for each additional course taken in any term. Members who are not sure whether they have paid dues for the current year should contact David Hogberg, co-AALL Treasurer, at 517-629-4834 or e-mail: [dhogberg@albion.edu](mailto:dhogberg@albion.edu).

## Registration Information

The Registration form attached to this newsletter should be sent, with payment (if any), to:

**AALL Registrar**

**P.O Box 188**

**Albion, Michigan 49224**

or brought to the

**Fall Assembly on September 12, 2013 @ 3:30 p.m.**

**in Fellowship Lounge, First United Methodist Church.**

*"If there are additional class fees for supplies, these fees need to be paid at the time of registration and are non-refundable unless the class is canceled."*

In the event that a class, which has limited enrollment, is oversubscribed, AALL policy is to choose successful applicants on a random basis. Thus, participants for limited classes will be chosen by lottery from all registrations received for that class, no later than September 19, 2013.

Registrants for all classes will receive a letter shortly after September 19, 2013 that will acknowledge their registration, and provide additional information about the course(s) for which they have registered.

If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees will be refunded **ONLY** if the AALL Registrar, Mary Deardurff (517-629-9661) is notified *no later than one week prior to the start of the class*.

**PLEASE NOTE:** AALL incorporated as a separate **NONPROFIT** organization in January 2010 under the incorporation laws of the State of Michigan. However, we have **NOT** yet become a **TAX EXEMPT** organization under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service. Therefore, any donations and/or fees paid to AALL are **NOT** tax deductible. The AALL Board is currently weighing the costs and benefits of applying for tax-exempt status, but no decision has yet been reached.

# Membership & Course Registration Form – Fall, 2013

## Instructions: Please read carefully

1. Fill in the left-side of the Form below for yourself. If you have a spouse/partner who is joining or renewing their AALL membership, use the right-side form for her/him.
2. For each course for which you wish to register, place a number in the column in front of the course name: 1 for the course you most wish to take, 2 for the second course you wish to take, etc. NOTE: If you only wish to take one course, mark it with the number 1.
3. In the column marked FEE, indicate the appropriate cost. Your first course (each term) is free with your AALL membership; simply write FREE in the FEE column. For each additional course, the fee is \$10.
4. If you are registering for a course with limited enrollment, make sure you mark it number 1 (only those indicating a course as their first choice will be entered into the random selection if the class is oversubscribed.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

S/P Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

S/P E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>FEE</u>
<b>2013-2014 Membership Dues</b>	<b><u>\$20</u></b>
___ I am 55+ (spouse/partner may be younger)	
<b><u>Classes</u></b>	
___ LA BOHEME and RENT	_____
___ DON QUIXOTE PART I	_____
___ CHANCE AND PROBABILITY	_____
___ HOW EARLY CHRISTIANS READ THE BIBLE	_____
___ EVOLUTION OF WEAVING (add \$5 extra fee)	_____
___ NATURE'S MYTHS, PHOBIAS, AND PHENOMENA	_____
TOTAL	_____

	<u>FEE</u>
<b>2013-2014 Membership Dues</b>	<b><u>\$20</u></b>
___ I am 55+ (spouse/partner may be younger)	
<b><u>Classes</u></b>	
___ LA BOHEME and RENT	_____
___ DON QUIXOTE PART I	_____
___ CHANCE AND PROBABILITY	_____
___ HOW EARLY CHRISTIANS READ THE BIBLE	_____
___ EVOLUTION OF WEAVING (add \$5 extra fee)	_____
___ NATURE'S MYTHS, PHOBIAS, AND PHENOMENA	_____
TOTAL	_____

**Membership & Course Registration Deadline: September 18, 2013**