



# ALBION AREA LIFELONG LEARNERS

An Institute for Learning in Retirement Sponsored by Albion College

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## Greetings!

I am pleased to announce a fascinating assembly program to kick off our winter term of classes. Marcy Sacks is the Julian Rammelkamp Professor of History at Albion College and has written extensively on the black experience in the United States. She will share surprising insights from her latest book about white Union soldiers' racial attitudes during the Civil War.

The Administration and Finance Committee has been working on a revision of the bylaws that clarifies the language and updates our current practices. The Board of Directors approved the proposed revisions at its November meeting and the proposal will be discussed and voted on at the Winter Assembly on January 9.

Current members will receive a copy of the proposed revisions with this newsletter. In the attached draft, strikethroughs (indicating text that is being omitted) are bold and the changes (text that is being added) are bold underlines. The current edition of the bylaws is available online on the "About" page of the AALL website.

We urge you to join our electronic mailing list in order to keep up with news and announcements that we are now able to easily share through email. In the meantime, we will continue to send paper versions of the class schedules and assembly announcements before each term.

The Hospitality Committee thanks you for bringing your own beverages to the fall term classes. They appreciate your cooperation, and the class coordinators were thankful not to lug around the cumbersome bins of coffee/tea/hot chocolate paraphernalia. Please continue to bring your own beverage to enjoy during the breaks.

Royal Ward  
President, AALL

## Upcoming Events

### ***Winter Assembly – Thursday, January 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m.***

#### **"There is Nothing Like Having a Slave": White Union Soldiers' Attitudes about Race during the American Civil War**

Marcy Sacks, Ph.D.

Julian S. Rammelkamp Professor of History, Albion College

When northern white men went to war during the 1860s to fight for the Union, they took with them their prejudices and ignorance about African Americans. As they encountered black people, a remarkable number of these soldiers developed fantasies about becoming slave owners themselves. In this presentation for AALL, I will discuss the evolution of whites' racial attitudes, specifically their growing desire for slave ownership. Allowing participants to examine soldiers' letters, diaries, and staged photographs, we will explore how their interactions with black people cultivated among whites a desire to have dominion over another human being, even as they denounced southern Confederates for doing precisely that. The mythologies they created about themselves allowed them to imagine genuinely paternalistic relationships with "their" servants (their letters are replete with proprietary language) at the same time that they scoffed at southern whites for believing that enslaved people welcomed their bondage. These fantasies hampered black people's efforts to be recognized as fully free or equal citizens. Marcy Sacks earned her Ph.D. in U.S. History at the University of California at Berkeley. She has been teaching history at Albion College for over 20 years. She has written two books, *Before Harlem: The Black Experience in New York City before World War I*, and *Joe Louis: Race and Sports in Twentieth-Century America*. She is now at work on a third book about white Union soldiers' racial attitudes during the Civil War.

When she is not teaching or researching, Marcy can usually be found running somewhere.

**Tennant Hall at the First United Methodist Church**

600 E Michigan Ave, Albion, MI 49224

## Upcoming Courses

### **AMERICAN PHARMA: THE SCIENCE AND THE BUSINESS BEHIND YOUR DRUGS**

**Craig Streu, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Albion College. Thursdays. 10:00 am. – 12:00 noon. Location TBD.**

Pharmaceuticals are big business in America. Global trade treaties, the stock market, and most importantly, our health, rely on developments in this rapidly evolving industry. How does it work and why should we all care? This course will examine the types of pharmaceuticals, how each works, and how they are discovered, developed, marketed and ultimately brought to market. The course will have a distinct focus on the science behind drugs, but it is impossible to separate the science of drug discovery from the business of drug sales, and so the course will often and unavoidably diverge into topics of ethics, marketing and economics.

Topics include the following: how drugs work at the molecular level, what makes a 'good' drug, chemical and other strategies for discovering new drugs, the drug development process and timeline, FDA approval process, drug naming and marketing, intellectual property/patent issues, generic vs. name brand drugs, and drug wholesalers and sales.

### **THE GOLDEN AGE OF MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**

**David Abbott, Ph.D., Professor of Piano, Albion College. Tuesdays. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. February 11, 18, 25, March 3. Mudd 210 (Albion College Library).**

Why do the performances of the great performers who were active on the stage in the early decades of the 20th century stand out so vividly when compared to those of today? What makes the sound of Fritz Kreisler or John McCormack so identifiable after only a few seconds? What is it in their playing that gives each of these artists such a unique and special identity? We will devote time in these four classes to listening and discussing the great pianists, instrumentalists, singers and chamber ensembles in an effort to see what made these artists so unique and of course beloved to audiences around the world. Many historical audio and some video recordings will be used both to capture and illustrate their unique artistry.

### **UNKNOWN AUSTRIA HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF EUROPE**

**Patrick McLean, M.A., Director, Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service, Albion College. Wednesdays. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. February 5, 12, 19, 26. Location TBD.**

Austria, a country located in the heart of Europe, is barely known by most Americans. If Americans do know something of Austria, it's often from *The Sound of Music*, a 54-year-old film that, surprisingly for Americans, many Austrians have never seen.

With a population of 9 million, Austria has roughly the same number of people as Michigan in an area one-third as large. About 2 million Austrians live in Vienna, the capital, with the remainder scattered across eight other states (or "Laender"). Those Americans who have visited Austria have mostly visited Vienna and Salzburg, the home of the Family von Trapp from *The Sound of Music* and, more important to Austrians, the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. But there is much beyond the tourist meccas of the capital and Salzburg.

This four-week course aims to go well beyond the Hollywood version of this spectacularly beautiful country to explore the post war history and politics of Austria, the geography that makes it a fabulous travel destination, and the social and political climate that is moving in a direction similar to its eastern neighbors. The course will also examine the outsized role Austria has played in international diplomacy since WWII. Finally, we will spend some time on the classical music traditions of Austria, home of Mozart, Mahler, Schubert and Strauss, as well as its tremendous art history.

### **TRAVELOGUE**

**Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. February 4, 11, 18, 25. Naomi Lane Room of the Albion District Library.**

- **February 4:** *Antarctica and the Falkland Islands* with Darlene & Tom Chisholm
- **February 11:** *Maritime Jewels of the British Isles & Ireland* with Jim & Kathleen Seidl and Carolyn & Dennis Gaswick
- **February 18:** *Spain/Portugal/Madeira Island* with Bill & Barb Raffail
- **February 25:** *The Holy Land and Egypt* with Dave & Sue Farley

## ***CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH ON THE BOHM SCREEN***

**Nancy Doyal, Executive Director, Bohm Theatre. Wednesdays. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. February 5, 12, 19, 26. Bohm Theatre.**

A selection of four films highlighting African American leaders, influencers, activists, and game changers that advanced the American Civil Rights movement.

### **THE BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF A REVOLUTION (2015)**

This film documents the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party, one of the 20th century's most alluring and controversial organizations that captivated the world's attention for nearly 50 years.

More Information and Trailer - [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4316236/?ref =nv\\_sr\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4316236/?ref =nv_sr_1)

### **TONI MORRISON: PIECES I AM (2019)**

This artful and intimate meditation on the legendary storyteller examines her life, her works and the powerful themes she confronted throughout her literary career.

More Information and Trailer - [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9358206/?ref =nv\\_sr\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9358206/?ref =nv_sr_1)

### **I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO (2016)**

Writer James Baldwin tells the story of race in modern America with his unfinished novel, Remember This House.

More Information and Trailer - [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5804038/?ref =nv\\_sr\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5804038/?ref =nv_sr_1)

### **STANDING IN THE SHADOWS OF MOTOWN (2002)**

Documentary about the Funk Brothers, a group of Detroit musicians who backed up dozens of Motown artists.

More information and Trailer - [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0314725/?ref =nv\\_sr\\_2?ref =nv\\_sr\\_2](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0314725/?ref =nv_sr_2?ref =nv_sr_2)

OR

### **AMAZING GRACE (2018)**

A documentary presenting Aretha Franklin with the choir at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Watts, Los Angeles in January 1972. Filmed in two days with a crew of film and sound engineers and five 16mm cameras, all directed by Sydney Pollack.

More Information and Trailer - [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4935462/?ref =nv\\_sr\\_1?ref =nv\\_sr\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4935462/?ref =nv_sr_1?ref =nv_sr_1)

## Registration Information

If you are not already a member, please join now.

AALL Registrar  
P.O. Box 188  
Albion, MI 49224

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I am 55 or older (spouse/partner could be younger)

*(New members are always welcome. Membership renewals are due before the Fall term)*

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$20 per year, per person

Spouse's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Course Registration Form Instructions

For each course for which you wish to register, place a number in the box 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—see instruction 3 below.

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.

If you wish to indicate an alternate choice (in case one of your choices above is oversubscribed and you are not admitted to that course), mark an X in the box before your alternate choice.

If there are additional class fees for supplies, these fees need to be paid at the time of registration. If you are unable to attend a course for which you have registered, fees can be refunded up until the start of the course.

#### **Policy for over-enrolled classes**

When a course with limits is over-enrolled, the names of all those who had it listed as #1 shall be entered in a lottery. Those randomly drawn shall be placed in the class. Those not selected will comprise the waiting list and also be given first access if that course is offered again. The Registrar will keep a record of those on the waiting list until the course is offered again. Those selected for the course in its first offering will not be eligible to retake it until all those on the waiting list have had the opportunity to take the course. Those who have signed up for a class with limits and listed it as #1 are encouraged to sign up for at least one additional class. Members are also encouraged not to sign up for a course with limited enrollment if they know they won't be there for all four sessions.

	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee</b>
	American Pharma	
	The Golden Age of Musical Performance	
	Unknown Austria Hidden in the Heart of Europe	
	Celebrating Black History Month on the Bohm Screen	
	Travelogue	

Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	

**Registration Deadline: Thursday, January 16.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Fee</b>
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Name:	
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**Registration Deadline: Thursday, January 16.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

AALL  
P.O. Box 188  
Albion, Michigan 49224

AALL Winter 2020 Class Announcements

## **ABOUT AALL**

### **AALL Officers**

President: Royal Ward  
Vice President: Bruce Nelson  
Secretary: Kathleen Seidl  
Treasurer: Alice Cook

### **Support Staff**

Registrar: Mary Deardurff  
Webmaster: Eric Westmoreland

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.