

Upcoming OLLI Brown Bag Presentations: March, 2017

Instructions: This document contains the OLLI Brown Bag Presentations scheduled for the first month of the Spring 2017 semester. Please read through the brown bag descriptions and fill out the Registration Form on the last page of this document. **Mail the Registration Form or email your choices to ollireg@gmail.com. You can also register online through www.oli.umb.edu**

God without Organized Religion: Introduction to a Course in Miracles and the Path of Love (Video Conference from UMass to Braintree)

Date: Thursday, March 16, 11:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (Note the length of this presentation; It will run for 2 hours and 15 minutes; there will be one 15-minute break in the middle.)

Locations: Presentation Room 3, Lower Level in Healey Library, UMass Boston & Thayer Public Library in Braintree ***This presentation is not offered in Hingham.*

Are you curious about a new, revolutionary, and transformational thought system about God that does not require a church, a minister, donations, or a fixed set of rules? The goal of this seminar is to introduce participants to a spiritual self-study program called A Course in Miracles. Topics include how it came about, its controversies, and its uncompromising message about self as a miracle worker and unconditional Source of Love. This seminar includes a short reading and brief exposure to a typical daily meditation. Appropriate for people of all religions, no religion, or to anyone who's open to a new perspective.

Presenter: Karen Bentley is a bestselling author, adult educator, sugar-free expert, and devoted Course practitioner since 1992. Her role as presenter is to serve as an ambassador of love and to increase awareness of a Course in Miracles. For more info visit, www.karenbentley.com/acimseminar

Cuba in Transition: Where Does Cuba Go From Here (Video Conference from UMass to Hingham and Braintree)

Date: Monday, March 20, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Locations: Presentation Room 3, Lower Level in Healey Library, UMass Boston, Hingham Public Library & Thayer Public Library in Braintree

The revolution gave Cuba universal health care, literacy, sociability, as well as a housing stock that is decaying. Now that the United States is friendlier, what will happen? Will Cuba give up its socialist base for capitalism? Will U.S. developers move in and undermine the progress that people made? These are the pressing problems Cuba faces today.

Presenters: Paul Sears and Barbara John, husband and wife team, started doing political videos for the Newton Democratic Party. They became so interested in video production that they expanded to documentaries, such as the one they'll be presenting

Additional Brown Bag Presentations in April & May will be announced later

The Johnson “War on Poverty”: A Retrospective

Date: Tuesday, March 21, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Room 204A, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

The 60s were a turbulent time in this country: JFK was assassinated in November, 1963; the Gulf of Tonkin incident took place in August, 1964, thus leading the United States deeper into the Viet Nam War; the Watts riots happened in November, 1965; and Martin Luther King was assassinated in April, 1968. Despite all the turbulence of the era, some of the most important legislation was passed during the presidency of Lyndon Johnson. A war on poverty was declared! This brown bag will look at the situation then, what is left of the war on poverty, and there will be an opportunity for the audience to discuss the county’s current response to what we now call “income inequality.”

Presenter: Joanne Agababian is an OLLI member and has been a course facilitator. This topic is dear to her: she read Michel Harrington’s *The Other America* in high school and went on to have a front row seat in the War on Poverty as a VISTA volunteer in East Los Angeles, CA. Joanne arrived two years after the Watts Riots. Since then, she has gone on to get an MSW and an MPH, served as the president of her local neighborhood association, and was a long-time volunteer in the Emergency Room at Mass General Hospital. Joanne currently volunteers at Boston Health Care for the Homeless on Friday nights as the “Crafts Lady.”

Introduction to Mindfulness (offered in Braintree only)

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Logan Auditorium at the Thayer Public Library in Braintree

Mindfulness is a concept that comes from the Western contemplative and Eastern meditation traditions. In the past 25 years it has been found to be useful and effective in health care in the treatment of various conditions such as stress, chronic pain, anxiety, depression, and cancer. Mindfulness is defined as “awareness without judgment of what is, via direct and immediate experience.” In our culture, so many of us are disconnected from emotions, physical sensations, and the present moment. This small, experiential group program will introduce members to the concept with brief exercises to rediscover the present moment. Maximum 20 participants.

Presenter: Marie Radei is a licensed clinical social worker with an MSW from Boston University, MEd from Northeastern, and ABE from Harvard, with postgraduate studies at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and University of Washington Intensive Training in Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). She has worked in outpatient and inpatient settings in Southeastern Mass. and is currently employed as a per-diem clinician.

Portraits of Purpose: Making Social Change

Date: Thursday, March 23, 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Location: Room 204A, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

Don West co-authored *Portraits of Purpose: A Tribute to Leadership* with Kenneth J. Cooper. The book (Three Bean Press, 2014) contains West’s portraits and Cooper’s profiles of 127 social change agents from the Boston area since 1980, mostly African Americans but also their allies of every race. We will discuss a number of these individuals who have shaped the city, how they made change, and what motivated them to work for the greater good. The co-authors will discuss the story behind the photographs of these leaders and the interviews with them.

Presenters: Don West's photos have appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *Bay State Banner*, *New York Times*, and *Ebony*, among other publications. He served as the photographer for newly-released Nelson Mandela when he visited Boston in 1990. Kenneth J. Cooper has worked as a journalist for the *Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*, where he shared a Pulitzer Prize at age 28. He edits the *Trotter Review* published by UMass Boston.

Erasmus Darwin Leavitt: The Most Impressive 19th Century Engineer You've Never Heard Of

Date: Monday, March 27, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Room 204A, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

E.D. Leavitt should be considered with the likes of Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison, as enormously influential 19th century innovators that changed the lives of all Americans. Yet, although he was a native son of Massachusetts, he remains virtually unknown in his own state and his spectacular achievements forgotten. This discussion will explore the life of Leavitt in the context of the Industrial Revolution and the Golden Age of Boston. It will touch on the fascinating life path of a self-taught engineer in 19th Century America, as well as the design, fabrication, and installation of industrial equipment of that era. Finally, using Leavitt's only remaining work, the huge, triple expansion steam powered pumping engine located at the Waterworks Museum as a backdrop, attendees will be able to better understand the challenges and triumphs experienced by a master engineer that time has forgotten.

Presenter: Eric Peterson is the Director of Operations and Collections Manager at the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum located adjacent to the reservoir in Chestnut Hill. Mr. Peterson is one of a handful of historians who recognizes the contributions of Erasmus Leavitt, particularly since he is a steward of his last known technological masterpiece housed within the museum. Mr. Peterson is committed to resurrecting the legacy of one of Massachusetts' least known but most intriguing, influential engineering pioneers.

Human Sex Trafficking of American Born Children within Our Borders (*offered in Hingham only*)

Date: Monday, March 27, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Whiton Room at the Hingham Public Library

Human Trafficking is a human rights issue. American born and bred children as young as 12 years old are coerced into a life that is unthinkable. Without support of any kind and with abuse of every kind, these children and young women try to survive each day as they are exploited, blamed, and often arrested because of the crimes of others. This eye opening presentation speaks to the many myths and misconceptions surrounding this criminal industry.

Presenter: Joan Vercollone Barry became an awareness speaker on Human Trafficking after realizing that most people know little to nothing about this tragedy, which continues to grow within our borders. She has spoken at churches, libraries, colleges, and civic groups, and am a board member of a non-profit that mentors victims of human trafficking.

Reading from *The Swallow and the Nightingale*

Date: Tuesday, March 28, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Room 204A, 3rd Floor, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston

In the visionary work of fiction, *The Swallow and the Nightingale*, a scientist comes up against the moral issue of today as she learns about Gandhi's seven social sins. This modern fable covers many

important issues of our times: environment, racism, same-sex love, patriarchy, and religion. It is an engaging story, with mystery, action, suspense, tragedy, and hope. “I have never read a work of fiction that combines so much scientific acumen with so much heart.” “This is a book you can abandon yourself to, enjoying a ride through time.” The author will read excerpts and talk about her writing process.

Presenter: Thea Iberall is called a “shimmering bridge between heart and mind.” A published poet and playwright, her first novel *The Swallow and the Nightingale* is about a 4,000-year-old secret brought through time by the birds. She has a master’s degree in writing (USC) and teaches privately since 2005.

Marijuana & Your Brain: Chronic Use, Acute Use & Medicinal Use *(offered in Hingham only)*

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Whiton Room at the Hingham Public Library

Massachusetts and the adjoining New England states all allow for the medicinal use of marijuana. Some of the approved uses are for neurologic disease. This lecture will review how chronic and acute use of marijuana impacts neuroprocesses in the brain. The lecture will briefly review the current understanding of the impact of marijuana and cannabinoids on disease processes such as Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.

Presenter: Denise A. Valenti, OD has expertise in the clinical care of older adults and has done research related to vision loss, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and more recently the study of cannabinoids and marijuana. She has lectured and presented on the topic of cannabinoids both nationally and internationally. Most recently Dr. Valenti has begun work related to cannabinoids and impairment to driving.

The Message of Japan’s World Peace Bells: How Boston Became Part of the Story

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Location: Room 204A, 3rd Floor in McCormack Hall

In a number of cities across the globe, Japanese Buddhist temple bells dedicated to world peace have been installed in prominent public parks. They are exact replicas of the United Nations Peace Bell in New York, donated in 1954 by the people of Japan upon its acceptance into the family of UN nations. A year earlier the city of Boston became the recipient of its own Japanese peace bell, a gift from the Temple Believers of the Manpuku-ji Temple in Sendai. Discovered by U.S. sailors in an Imperial Navy shipyard foundry, among 500 others in queue to be destroyed for weaponry, the bell was brought to the United States aboard the battleship USS Boston in 1946. This Brown Bag presentation will tell the story of the worldwide Japanese peace bell movement and Boston’s place in its history. Beginning with the tolling of the first peace bell in 1947 at Hiroshima’s ground zero to the yearly tolling of the UN Peace Bell on International Peace Day, the movement’s contribution to promoting international peace and understanding has been profound.

Presenter: Lola Heiler-Stillman is a “lifelong learner” and Emerald Necklace Conservancy docent and lecturer. As an American Red Cross disaster responder, she undertook an in-depth study of the Emerald Necklace’s Japanese Temple Bell after hearing about the 9.0 Great Tohoku Earthquake in northern Japan on March 11, 2011 and realizing the bell’s profound connection to the people of Sendai. Lola holds a BS in sociology/anthropology from UMass Boston/BSC, an MBA from Northeastern, and an MSW from Arizona State University.

Registration Form for March 2017 Brown Bag Presentations

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

I plan to attend the following Brown Bag Presentations (please check):

___ **God without Organized Religion: Introduction to a Course in Miracles & the Path of Love**
(Video Conference Presentation) **(March 16)**

Please indicate location:

☐ UMass Boston ☐ Thayer Public Library, Braintree

___ **Cuba in Transition: Where Does Cuba Go From Here** (Video Conference Presentation)
(March 20)

Please indicate location:

☐ UMass Boston ☐ Hingham Public Library ☐ Thayer Public Library, Braintree

___ **The Johnson "War on Poverty": A Retrospective (March 21)**

___ **Introduction to Mindfulness (March 22)** (Braintree Only)

___ **Portraits of Purpose: Making Social Change (March 23)**

___ **Erasmus Darwin Leavitt: The Most Impressive 19th Century Engineer You've Never
Heard Of (March 27)**

___ **Human Sex Trafficking of American Born Children within Our Borders (March 27)**
(Hingham Only)

___ **Reading from *The Swallow and the Nightingale* (March 28)**

___ **Marijuana and Your Brain: Chronic Use, Acute Use and Medicinal Use (March 29)**
(Hingham Only)

___ **The Message of Japan's World Peace Bells: How Boston Became Part of the Story
(March 29)**

To register for brown bag presentations, please email your choices to ollireg@gmail.com. You
can also register online through www.oli.umb.edu or mail this form to:

OLLI, UMass Boston,
100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125