

Announcement

HBS announces change to Roots & Resonance

The Friday portion of the upcoming Roots & Resonance event hosted by Highlands Biological Station has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances, according to an emailed update from University Program Associate Sarah Vickery.

“We are now focusing on a Saturday-only program, which will be free and open to the public,” Vickery said in the email. “This event will focus on a ‘Celebration of Place’.”

The Saturday, Sept. 13 event will feature hourly guided garden tours, a rare and unusual native plant sale, a special presentation on George Masa by Paul Bonestee and Janet McCue, and a reception and book signing.



Submitted photos

Clockwise from top: Jeffrey Small, Ron Rash, Professor Brian Railsback, Dr. Catherine Lewis, John Kotek, Dr. James Costa.

Highlands 150 years



Photo courtesy of Highlands Historical Society

Churches on Main

The Episcopal Church (right) and Presbyterian Church (left) are pictured looking west down Main Street. Photo by R.H. Scadin ca. 1910.

Center for Life Enrichment

Religion, Literature, Science and History

By Martha Pearson
CLE President

The audiences at the Center for Life Enrichment’s programs this summer have come to expect engaging speakers on fascinating and often timely topics. The last two weeks of the season will continue with that tradition, closing the CLE season of academic presentations with an all-star cast of speakers, many familiar to the Plateau.

Jeffrey Small, author and scholar of world religions, as well as a CLE favorite, will present two lectures. In the first, he explores how the

world’s religious traditions conceive of heaven and eternal life. Can religious traditions other than our own enlighten our views on the meaning of salvation? Can we find salvation during this life? He will consider these questions on Monday, Aug. 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. in a lecture titled, Who Goes to Heaven? Perspectives on Eternal Life from the World’s Religions.

He then takes up the even more complex problem of the existence of evil and suffering in the world. Eastern and Western religious traditions approach this problem in very different ways. While both recognize the imperfections in our lives, they prescribe different paths to understanding them. This lecture, titled, The Necessity of Imperfection: Grappling with Evil and Suffering in the World’s Religions, will be on Tuesday, Aug. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon.

ing plants Darwin studied, and each is illustrated with beautiful, historical botanical artwork curated by Costa’s co-author Bobbi Angell from the Library at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Upperville, Virginia.

In the lecture The Future of Nuclear Power – An Insider’s Perspective, John Kotek, senior vice president for policy and public affairs at the Nuclear Energy Institute, will address the important topic of next-generation nuclear energy systems. He will explain the growth in demand for clean electricity driven by data centers and AI companies, and how nuclear energy fits into meeting that demand, as well as the plans of U.S. utilities to decarbonize electricity generation.

High Country Wine and Provisions and CLE will host one of the most highly acclaimed authors of the Southeastern United States. Ron Rash, the Parris Distinguished Professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies at Western Carolina University, will discuss the major themes of his life’s work, which includes eight novels, seven collections of short stories and four volumes of poetry.

Professor Brian Railsback, Professor of English at WCU and Rash’s colleague, will offer an introductory lecture to Rash’s body of work. Rash will read from selections of his poetry and fiction. Rash will answer questions from the audience and Dr. Railsback. This presentation, Words from the Heart: an Evening with Ron Rash on Life, Literature, and Legacy, will be on Wednesday, Aug. 20, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

CLE is pleased to share that a portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the Literacy and Learning Center to support their mission of providing educational and enrichment opportunities free of charge for all ages.

The work of another local author, Dr. James Costa, executive director of the Highlands Biological Station will be featured at a cocktail reception on Thursday, Aug. 21 from 4 to 6 p.m., Dr. Costa will discuss his book, “Darwin and the Art of Botany: Observations on the Curious World of Plants”. This book spotlights 45 fascinat-

Finally, Dr. Catherine Lewis, professor of history at Kennesaw State University and assistant vice president of museums, archives and rare books at KSU, will present two lectures. She will examine the role of women in World War II, which she calls a “woman’s war” because of the numerous and varied roles women played in that global conflict.

As the title, Beyond Rosie: Women and World War II, suggests, Lewis will show that women were not only wartime production workers, but also served in auxiliary military units, in resistance groups, as journalists and USO performers, among many other roles.

Lewis then focuses on Hollywood’s role in the World War II effort. She will examine how Hollywood supported the war, producing newsreels, military combat footage, short films, cartoons and full-length features with which we are all still familiar, including “Casablanca.” Rosie will be presented on Monday, Aug. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m., and Hollywood on Tuesday, Aug. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon.

With the exception of the Rash and Costa events, these presentations will take place at CLE’s Lecture Hall, located in the Peggy Crosby Center at 348 South 5th Street. The cost for each program is \$30 for CLE members and \$40 for nonmembers. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information about those programs or to register for either the Rash or Costa events which are \$70 for CLE members and \$80 for nonmembers, please visit cle-highlands.com or call (828) 526-8811.

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