

RATHER BE READING BOOK GROUP

Pat Norton-White **Wednesdays, April 10, May 8, June 12,** **10:30 am – 11:30 am**
July 10, August 14

Book lovers unite! Stories have always brought people together. Take this opportunity to get together with fellow book enthusiasts for a relaxed and informal opportunity to simply chat about books and meet others with a common interest. Read the selected book before the meeting and plan on enjoying the company of others while discussing a book each session.

Books to be read:

April - *The Tobacco Wives* by Adele Myers

May - *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store: A Novel* by James McBride

June - *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

July - *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Neopolitano

August - *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and The Birth of the FBI* by David Grann

Location: Blue Room, 1st United Presbyterian (Red Door) Church, 2 Walling Ave., Oneonta

Cost: Enrollees will need to acquire the books themselves.

Maximum Enrollment: 15

THE FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Patricia Leonard **Thursday, April 11** **10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

Come learn about the Family Services Association - a private, non-profit human service agency, the mission of which is to support individual and family strengths and to assist residents in the area in meeting their own needs. FSA offers programs in clothing, emergency services, employment training, and a parents' resource workshop. 2023 was an especially significant year, as FSA was involved with a "Mud Run" fundraiser, Richards Avenue Disaster relief, operating a warming station and offering other services to the homeless population, and collaborating with municipalities and non-profit organizations.

Location: Craven Lounge, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 75

AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PRESIDENTS - IX

Edmond Overbey **Thursday, April 11** **1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

A book club with a historical biography theme. Class will feature an interactive video overview of the 17th and 18th Presidents, of the United States of America, Andrew Johnson and Ulysses S. Grant, including successes, failures, and challenges before, during, and after achieving office.

Location: Craven Lounge, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 75

UNEXPECTED CHAOS: THE AMERICAN ECONOMY SINCE 2001

Larry Malone **Monday, April 15** **10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

The advent of the 21st century brought persistent and unprecedented chaos to the United States economy. Since 2001, no prior period in American history compares, in magnitude, to the alternating levels of economic destruction and expansion that we experienced in our home, work and retirement lives. This class will remind us of the specific events that caused such disruption, and then present and evaluate the policy responses by the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve that sought to restore order from turmoil.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 40

THE OREGON COAST, CALIFORNIA REDWOODS AND CRATER LAKE

Dorothy Scott Fielder

Monday, April 22

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

This is based on a trip that took me to see lighthouses, scenic views, volcanic areas and gorgeous Crater Lake. I went in a boat on the ocean to see whales, rode in a dune buggy in the Oregon dunes and had a jet boat ride on the Rogue River. In California, I got to walk below and in the Coastal Redwoods. I took many photos of these places and more.

Location: Craven Lounge, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 75

MORE STOPS IN ROD SERLING'S TWILIGHT ZONE

Todd Jones

Mondays, April 22, 29, May 6, 13

1:00 am – 3:00 pm

This course will discuss the thematic elements of 8 episodes from The Twilight Zone that were on the air from 1959-1964. During each class we will watch two episodes. Session 1 will include "Five Characters in Search of an Exit" and "To Serve Man". Session 2 will feature "The Jungle" and "A Game of Pool". In Session 3, we will show "Kick the Can" and "I Sing the Body Electric". The last session will include "The Dummy" and "The Changing of the Guard".

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 24

LEARN TO PLAY AMERICAN MAH JONGG

Marilyn Rosas

Tuesdays, April 23, 30, May 7, 14

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

American Mah Jongg is a game of strategy and luck. We will cover the rules and offer some simple strategies, but most important, we will play the game.

Location: The Gathering Place, 5506 NY-07, Oneonta, NY

Maximum Enrollment: 12

Cost: \$15 for American Mah Jongg Card

REDUCING POLITICAL POLARIZATION

Tom Pullyblank

Wednesday, April 24

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Polarization remains one of the most intractable problems in American political life. Whether Democrat or Republican, conservative or progressive, Americans seem to be more insulated than ever from people with whom we disagree. How can we reduce polarization in the nation, in our communities and in our families? One answer is to listen to each other, to hear and, possibly, accept the beliefs and feelings of people who are different from us. This class will explore the dynamics of political polarization and learn effective ways to manage it.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 30

HOLLYWOOD AND THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE: WOMEN AND MEN IN THE AMERICA OF 1960

Bill Simons, Todd Jones

Thursdays, April 25, May 2, 9, 16

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Film often reflects the era in which it was produced, providing a mirror to social and cultural phenomena of its time, including gender roles and expectations. The 1960's was not transformative, but it was a crossroads between the neo-Victorian and feminine mystique of the 1950's, which prioritized women's roles as wives and mothers, and the rebellious 1960's that birthed second wave feminism, the sexual revolution, and the

generational gap. It was in 1960 that Good Housekeeping published Betty Friedan's "Women Are People, Too!", the precursor to "The Feminine Mystique" and the emergent feminist movement.

The course will show 4 significant films that capture 1960 as a crossroads. The movies will also be entertaining and feature outstanding acting. Unlike television situation comedies of that era, 1960 films typically provided a more realistic and complex approach to gender and family. Concise mini lectures as well as interactive discussion will complement the screenings. Fun trivia and psychological insight will lighten the analysis.

Films:

The Apartment with Jack Lemon, Shirley MacLaine, Fred MacMurray

Butterfield 8 with Elizabeth Taylor and Laurence Harvey

Psycho with Anthony Perkins and Janet Leigh

Please Don't Eat the Daisies with Doris Day and David Niven

Location: April 25 Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

May 2, 9, 16 Room 130, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 24

TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

Mary Miller

Fridays, April 26, May 17, June 14

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

We will read three novels, one a month. Care is taken in choosing books that have relevancy, depth, and inspire discussion. Notice of choices will be submitted in March.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 20

PARIS...MORE THAN THE EIFFEL TOWER, CHAPTER 12: YOU ASKED FOR IT, VOL 4:

LESSER-KNOWN CHURCHES IN PARIS

Bill Ryall

Thursday, May 2

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

This chapter of our ongoing Paris series continues looking at themes requested by class participants. In this chapter we will briefly visit several of the lesser-known churches in Paris. As always, commentary will be from this Francophile's perspective, but this photographer will no doubt have his input as well! Feel free to join us for another "rocking chair" stroll around Paris exploring requests by class participants.

Location: Craven Lounge, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 75

COMICS AND CARTOONS ON U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS

Dorothy Scott Fielder

Friday, May 3

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

This is another course featuring my photography of stamps in my collection. This is a lighter, fun topic -- comics and cartoons. Shown will be comics in the newspapers -- some long gone and some still seen in Sunday funnies. There will be Looney Tunes, Disney, lots of superheroes and more recently, Pixar characters. Come and enjoy a chuckle or two.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 40

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK IN WINTER

Charles Hartley

Tuesday, May 7

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The course will consist of an illustrated lecture highlighting our late February trip to Yellowstone National Park, describing encounters with bison, elks, wolves, coyotes, a bear, mule deer, Moose, mountain goats, foxes, mountain sheep, birds (including eagles, swans and magpies), a mouse, prong horn antelope, and snowmobilers, and geysers, mud pots, pools of hot water, waterfalls, and more. I'll also describe how we

survived the -20 degree F temperatures (not including wind) our first day on our tour. I'll throw in a little history and geology as well.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 40

ONEONTA'S GROWTH: FROM INDIAN CAMP...TO EARLY SETTLEMENT...TO

6TH WARD

Helen Rees

Wednesday, May 22

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Norma Slawson

The class will explain how Oneonta grew from Indian camp to early settlement to 6th Ward. Early Indians located their summer camps on the banks of the Susquehanna River, the same river bottom land that the early settlers like Lawrence Swart found so attractive. While Milfordville slowly grew into a small settlement around the mill, it was the arrival of the railroad that turned Oneonta into a bustling city. The Wilcox Farm provided the land that was needed to house this influx of RR workers. Henry Wilcox's diaries document this development, as street by street he created both the roads and the building lots that were to become Oneonta's 6th Ward.

Location: Swart Wilcox House, Wilcox Ave. (by Riverside School), Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 20

A SAFARI TO ANCIENT FOOTPRINTS

Edmond Overbey

Thursday, May 23

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

A Safari to count Wildebeests during the great migration and a visit to the birthplace of civilization. Recent in-person videos of the great migration and close-up views of Olduvai Gorge.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 20

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED ART? MY VERSION OF ART APPRECIATION

Charles Hartley

Tuesday, May 28

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Most of us are interested in art, but many have not thought a great deal about what it is. There are definitions as to what is art, and what is not art. What makes good art is determined by our culture and individual tastes, and it changes with time. The way our brain interprets our environment helps shape our concept of art. Art creates emotions; no emotions, no art. Some people struggle to create art, others do not. Most of us appreciate art. What's going on here?

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 40

THE SEARCHERS – A PERFECT WESTERN?

John Chamard

Wednesday, May 29

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

To explore the reasons why some film critics have reasoned that John Ford's *THE SEARCHERS* is thematically the most perfect Western ever made. Westerns are the one truly American film genre and director John Ford is considered the master of the genre and has used the setting of Utah's Monument Valley as a background since 1939's *STAGECOACH*. 1956's *THE SEARCHERS* again uses the setting, but this time in Technicolor. When the American Film Institute initiated its annual award 50 years ago, John Ford was its initial honoree.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 40

AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE PRESIDENTS - X

Edmond Overbey

Thursday, May 30

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

A book club with a historical biography theme. The class will feature an interactive video overview of the 19th and 20th presidents of the United States of America, Rutherford B. Hayes and James A. Garfield, including successes, failures, and challenges before, during, and after achieving office.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 20

NOT YOUR USUAL COMEDY MOVIES

Todd Jones

Tuesdays, June 4, 11, 18

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

We will watch and review three very different comedic films. They will be *Better Off Dead* (1985) PG, *Ten Things I Hate About You* (1999) PG13, and *Easy A* (2010) PG13. *Better Off Dead* is a dark comedy directed by Savage Steve Holland and features John Cusack, Kim Darby and David Ogden Stiers. *Ten Things I Hate About You* is directed by Gil Junger and is a modern day version of “The Taming of the Shrew” that has Julia Stiles, Heath Ledger and Larry Miller in its cast. *Easy A* is loosely based on “The Scarlet Letter” it is directed by Will Gluck and its cast includes Emma Stone, Stanley Tucci, Patricia Clarkson, Lisa Kudrow and Malcom McDowell.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 24

360° CHARACTER STORIES

Lanny Harrison

Thursday, June 27

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

After a short, guided sitting meditation and then a movement warm up, participants will each imagine themselves as another Being. This can be an ancestor, mythical person or historical person. We will then create on-the-spot 360 degree revolving stories based on these characters. A brief discussion will follow.

Location: Room 104, Morris Conference Center, SUNY Oneonta

Maximum Enrollment: 15

SPRING 2024 FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Carlton, Diane is an adjunct professor at SUNY/Oneonta where she teaches classes in environmental sustainability. She is the former Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and was the Otsego County Planning Director for 15 years. Diane has a Master's in Public Administration in Environmental Planning from the University of Delaware and a Bachelor's degree in History and Environmental Science from SUNY Geneseo.

Chamard, John is a retired teacher from Oneonta High School where he served as Chairperson of the English Department and ran the drama program. He taught electives in film and modern drama. He has a BA from Boston University and an MS from Columbia University.

Fielder, Dorothy Scott had a brief career teaching biology and a much longer career (25 years) in the USPS, where she acquired the stamp collecting bug. She retired in 2003, after 22 years as Schenevus Postmaster. Her many interests include stamp collecting, photography, travel, local history and environmental concerns.

Harrison, Lanny is a performer, teacher, poet, and visual artist. She began her career in the New York Pantomime Theater in 1966. For the past 40 years she has written and presented one-woman shows, touring the U.S. and Europe. She's collaborated with musicians, visual artists, dancers, and set designers. She's been a member of Meredith Monk & House since 1969. Ms. Harrison is a founding teacher of the children's workshops at West Kortright Centre. She teaches an ongoing workshop "Characters in Motion" and a course in the Gallatin Division of NYU – both in NYC. She is a certified meditation instructor in the Shambhala tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

Hartley, Charles grew up in Portland, Oregon, received a Bachelor's Degree in Physics from Portland State University, and a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Colorado. For thirty years he taught physics, astronomy, and the occasional beginning computer-programming course at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. He retired in 2006. He taught Elder Hostel courses before 1995 and CCAL classes on and off since 1996.

Jones, Todd received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from SUNY Cortland and Master of Science in Education in College Student Development from Alfred University. Since coming to Oneonta in 1984 he has worked at SUNY Oneonta, the Department of Labor, the ARC Otsego, and in 2021 retired from the Salvation Army. He is a fan of all movie genres and since 1985 has watched over 1,900 movies in the theater and countless more on VHS and DVD.

Leonard, Patricia is the Executive Director of the Family Service Association (FSA) in Oneonta. She began her career at FSA in 2014. Patricia is a graduate of Buffalo State College with a BS in Sociology with a concentration in Child & Family Studies. She also received her Family Development Credential (FDC) in 2017.

Malone, Larry, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Economics at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. Malone has served as a Carnegie Foundation Scholar and as a Fulbright Program International Specialist. He has authored and co-authored three books: *The Essential Adam Smith* (with Robert L. Heilbroner, W. W. Norton, 1986), *Opening the West: Federal Internal Improvements Before 1860* (Greenwood Press, 1998), and *Learning Interdependence* (with David Bachner and Mary Snider, University of South Carolina Press, 2001). His research interests focus on government policies and economic development, and he has authored articles on topics that range from the origins of match-making in the United States to the lack of broadband internet access in rural America.

Miller, Mary is a retired English teacher whose only reason for retiring was having developed an aversion to grading papers. She also has a debilitating addiction to reading good books. She enjoys "book talk" with like-minded readers.

Norton-White, Pat is a retired English teacher and school administrator. She now enjoys her time reading, cooking, gardening, quilting, traveling, and watching grandchildren. She lives in Bloomville, NY with her husband, one Connemara pony, two Corgis, and an opinionated cat.

Overbey, Edmond received his B.A in English, social studies and education from Lamar University, followed by graduate work in economics at the University of Houston and remote learning at SUNY Albany. Early in his career in the Management Development Program at Prudential, he discovered an aptitude for information technology (IT). He went into systems integration management focusing on land use planning. His post retirement career included teaching in the SUNY Research Foundation's high school diploma program.

Pixley, Edward, has 40 years of experience teaching college theatre courses, as well as directing and acting in college, community, and professional theatre, including a wide variety of Shakespeare productions. He taught courses in Shakespeare, both as literature and as performance. He also coordinated SUNY-Oneonta's semester of Shakespeare Weekend Workshops in 1989, and was managing director for our year of Elizabethan Repertory Theatre in 1989-90.

Pullyblank, Tom is an experienced mediator and circle conversation facilitator who has worked with a variety of groups throughout the area. Tom volunteers for Catholic Charities of Delaware, Otsego, and Schoharie Counties. He is also an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. Tom is a writer and has two decades of experience teaching history in college classrooms. He recently taught his current class for the League of Women Voters.

Rees, Helen is a retired librarian who enjoys both local history and the stories behind it. She has been involved with the Swart-Wilcox House Museum since its inception in 1988 when it was merely a dilapidated structure...and a dream. She finds that new information is continually being discovered which makes the history of Swart-Wilcox an on-going story.

Rosas, Marilyn is a retired Oneonta High School teacher. She is active in Otsego County Retired Teachers, The Friends of Huntington Memorial Library and Oneonta for Equality. She, and the volunteers helping her, learned to play Mah Jongg in a CCAL class and have been playing ever since.

Ryall, Bill is a retired French teacher who enjoyed a career that spanned over 42 years both in the public schools and at SUNY Oneonta. During that career, he also worked as a consultant in foreign language education at the New York State Education Department. He continues to travel regularly in the French world. Bill is passionate about his photography, an interest he has pursued since his early teens. His photography has won awards in various shows and his images of the Francophone world have been published in secondary school and university-level French textbooks.

Sanborn, Ed taught high school History and English for 25 years, plus eight years teaching continued adult learning in Sacramento, CA (Renaissance Society). He is interested in a wide variety of subjects and has taught classes about the Northern Renaissance, Revolutions 1600-2000, The Middle Ages 400-1200 AD, and The Chinese Revolution 1900-2000 to name a few. He welcomes any suggestions for future classes.

Simons, Bill is a Professor Emeritus of American History at SUNY Oneonta and Co-director of the Cooperstown "Symposium on Baseball and American Culture. As secretary of United University Professions (UUP), he facilitated union-community collaborations. He also is a columnist for *The Reporter*, the newspaper of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton.

Slawson, Norma is a life-long resident of Oneonta. She graduated from SUNY Oneonta and taught Title I reading and math at Greater Plains Elementary School. She has always been very interested in local history, and since her retirement, has been highly involved in the activities of the Swart-Wilcox House Museum.