

WINTER 2023

Adventures In Learning

virtual & in-person classes

Happy NEW Year! We made it through another year!! We're guessing you are ready to turn that calendar page and see the possibilities for a better new year ahead. So settle into your warm home (with gratitude) and check out the many opportunities to learn something new in February & March.

We are ready for a full 6-week series of our famous Adventures In Learning semester. Our version of hybrid is having **Zoom classes on Tuesdays and Fridays** (with an extra Zoom class on a Wednesday afternoon), then offering **in-person small classes on Thursday mornings**. Your WINTER semester has fourteen class topics. You can sign up for 1 or 3 or 10 based on your schedule and interests, all for a one-time fee. But you must register!

Step 1: Click on the [link on page 6](#) of this document to get online to choose your classes and then to pay the winter semester fee of \$55.00. You will **pay online, through the secure website**, using PayPal or your credit card. Be sure to enter your preferred email address as that is the only way we can send you the connection links for your Zoom classes. **

Step 2: After you pay the fee, you will get a confirmation email. Then, we will email you a document that has the full Zoom online registration so you will get your individual codes for each class you choose. Decide how the dates fit your schedule, which topics or instructors you prefer, and **then you must register on Zoom for each topic** you plan to attend.

Please *only select in-person classes* if you plan to attend at FBC. The seats are limited and your reservation is considered a promise-plan to attend.

*Live links to the classes cannot be shared, so **send this invitation to your friends** if you'd like them to attend.

Let the snow fall, put the pot of soup on the stove, stay healthy, and continue learning as we thrive in this new but temporary life style. Are you ready to learn something new and interesting?...to see your friends?...to continue to enjoy life?

While this past year has been full of challenges, we have had a wonderful time in great classes as we learn our new way forward on Zoom connections or in small gatherings at FBC. Our collaboration with St. Andrews SC for the *AIL Takes No Holiday* was a great success with fun classes, new faces and great teachers. (We're planning to do these mini sessions between classes again.)

The many donations we received in 2022 served to keep us viable, engaged and ready to be here for you at an affordable price. You may know that the fees we charge do not cover the full expenses of offering classes, new online payment processes, and staff time to make it all happen. Please consider a **Kick-off-another-year donation** on the SCG website ([click here](#)) or by mailing a gift to P.O. Box 4063, Greensboro, NC, 27404. We love your energy and interest and we deeply appreciate your participation.

**** IF you cannot register/make payment online, you must call Vickie at 336.501.8849 to let her know you are mailing a check to our post office box (SCG, P.O. Box 4063, Greensboro NC 27404).**



Weather...if the schools close for snow/ice... we follow their closing for road safety. So, if Thursdays have school closings, so will our in-person classes. But on other days, weather will not change the Zoom virtual classes.

Sandy & Vickie & your AIL Volunteer Team

Tuesdays, beginning 2/7/2023

ZOOM Classes

Houston Passions: The Deaths of Joan Robinson Hill & Dr. John Hill

Instructor: **Tom Brawner**

The passions of Houston plastic surgeon, Dr. John Hill, and his socialite wife, Joan Robinson Hill (John's for music and Joan's for horse shows) led them to live mostly separate lives during their troubled marriage. Adding to their marital woes were the overbearing meddling of Joan's father – a rich oilman, Ash Robinson – and a torrid love affair between John and a local divorcee. This toxic marriage would lead to Joan's mysterious death in 1969 and to John's murder in 1972. This course will explore the events, the people, the relationships, and the passions surrounding this family.

Tom is a retired attorney who loves researching murder mysteries and bringing them to SCG.

Dates: **Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28 & March 7, 14**

Time: **9:30 am**

In The News

Instructor: **John Spurrier, PhD**

Emeritus Professor John Spurrier leads a discussion of current news stories appearing in major newspapers around the country. Emphasis is placed on considering the stories from different viewpoints. Links to the stories will be emailed a few days before each class. Listeners and talkers are equally welcome.

Dr. Spurrier is a retired Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Statistics at the USC.

Dates: **Tuesdays, February 7, 21, 28 & March 7, 14**

Time: **11:30 am**

Are We a Democracy or a Republic and What is the Difference?

Instructor: **Linda Danford**

We will look at the roots of our Constitution and our evolving governmental structures in relation to the Greek and Roman models of antiquity and discuss the advantages and shortcomings of each tradition, both in ancient times and in the political debates of the present day. (In a polite and civil manner, of course!)

Linda is a retired UNCG professor of classics studies.

Dates: **Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Wednesday, February 15

One-time ZOOM class

The Greatest Storytelling on Stage

Guest Speaker: **David Holley**

David will discuss opera's impact in Greensboro and plans for a new year of great opera.

David is the Artistic Director of the Greensboro Opera, Professor of Music at UNCG.

Dates: **February 15**

Time: **3:00 pm**

Fridays, beginning 2/3/23 ZOOM classes ** note different start dates

Gender Roles in the 1950s

Instructor: **Larry Brown**

The 1950s is often fondly looked back upon as a "simpler time" in American history. The reality is that the 50s was a full-speed-ahead decade into atomic energy, cold war, industrial production, and rampant consumerism. Join us for a look at how gender conformity played out against this backdrop and opened the doors for the social revolutions of the 1960s.

Larry has a BA from Francis Marion College and a Master of Divinity from Duke University. He teaches at the Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews, Columbia, SC.

Dates: **Fridays, February 3, 10, 17, 24**

Time: **9:30 am**

Topics in Space Exploration

Instructor: **Jonathan Ward**

Our journeys will take us from the mountaintop observatories of Hawaii to the methane lakes on Saturn's Titan moon. We'll learn how astronauts train in weightlessness and meet the first woman to command a space mission. We'll discuss NASA's plans to return to the Moon and how to defend earth from external threats.

Jonathan is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and a NASA Solar System Ambassador. He is also President of the Greensboro Astronomy Club and Hamilton Lakes & Parks, Inc.

Dates: **Fridays, February 10, 17, 24, & March 3, 10, 17**

Time: **11:30 am**

Comparative Religions: The Good, the bad or the ugly

Instructor: **Edwina Webster, MRICS, MAPM**

We will take a look at the development of religion through the ages, How have religions developed, where are the similarities and differences. How religions deal with the concepts of heaven, hell, sin, and other thorny subjects. We will see how religion has influenced humanity for both good and bad and how important religion has been throughout history.

Edwina was born in the UK, grew up in Ethiopia, and continued her world travels for careers in construction, telecommunications and civil nuclear businesses. She is a guest presenter from the St. Andrews Shepherd's Center in South Carolina.

Dates: **Fridays, February 10, 17, 24, & March 3, 10, 17**

Time: **2:00 pm**

Thursdays, beginning 2/2/2023 In-Person

Small classes at First Baptist Church

Our board has approved the extra safety measure of showing your proof of vaccination card as required on the first day of class attendance. During classes, please wear your mask and respect social distancing. There are limits on the number of people for each room. We are grateful for your help in honoring all other safety guidelines during the winter's viral season.

There will not be lunch available since the church no longer has a kitchen staff. We have asked FBC to offer coffee service at the time between classes in the fellowship hall. You may choose to go out to lunch with a friend after the classes end. **We hope that many of our non-zoomers will choose to come back & participate after a long time away from Adventures In Learning.

Drawing is Seeing-Beginners

Instructor: **Melanie Bassett**

A study and direction for anyone who wants to draw. Now is the time to learn that **you can**, even if a teacher told you that “cows aren’t purple...” *We are all explorers and can draw!* **Class Limit - 10**

Melanie’s life has been making art, studying in England and Spain, with fifty years of teaching, curating, restoring and making art.

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **9:30 – 10:30 am**

Move To Improve with Yoga (Gentle/Beginner Level)

Instructor: **Jennifer Dowler**

This course is appropriate for students who want to learn the basics of yoga in a safe environment. Students should bring their own yoga mats and dress in comfortable clothing to allow free movement.

Jennifer is a registered teacher with the Yoga Alliance and has been teaching since 1973.

Class Limit – 15 (a minimum of 5 to offer this class)

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **9:30 am**

Our Evolving American Presidency

Instructor: **Kathy Smith, PhD**

Together we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of our constitutionally founded presidency. Why is our Chief Executive so powerful yet so thwarted in achieving their agenda? How does the process of choosing our leader impact our whole political system? Are there certain factors that have facilitated the successful presidency and how do we define this success? Are you satisfied with the institution of the presidency?

Kathy earned her MA and PhD from Purdue University. She chaired the Political Science Department at Wake Forest University for many years.

Class Limit – 40

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **9:30 am**

A Quaker Missionary in Palestine and Kenya: Lessons in History, Culture, and Colonialism

Instructor: **Max Carter**

From 1929 - 1967, Annice Carter (1902-1988) served as a Quaker missionary, for 14 years in the Middle East and Africa during some of the most important historical events of the 20th century: revolts against colonialism, nation-building, military occupation, and the re-evaluation of relations between “East” and “West.” In this class, we’ll explore those significant events through the lens of thousands of letters Annice sent home from the mission field. Topics will include the evolving understanding of Christian mission; the lead-up to the creation of the modern state of Israel and Palestinian response; internal Quaker debates about theology and service; and a final session on the instructor’s own recent work in Palestine and Israel.

Max is a retired professor of Quaker Studies at Guilford College and the great-nephew of Annice Carter. He is the author of two books that will be released in 2023, the biography of his great-aunt Annice and the sequel to “Palestine and Israel: A Personal Encounter.”

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **9:30 am**

10:30 – 11:00 Break with social time & COFFEE in the fellowship hall

Access to Contemporary Poetry

Instructor: **Robert Demaree**

This class will continue to examine the imagery and meaning of contemporary poetry. He will draw on the work of several contemporary poets, including George Bilgere and Kendra Tanacea. Members of the class who wish to will read and discuss their poems, in an atmosphere of collegiality and support. New topics, poets and poems have been added, making this course appropriate for those who have taken the class before.

Class Limit – 15

*Bob Demaree is a retired teacher and school administrator and author of four book-length collections of poems, including **After Labor Day** (2014) and **Other Ladders** (2017), published by Beech River Books.*

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **11:00 am**

Drawing Journey - Advanced

Instructor: **Melanie Bassett**

This class is for those who know drawing and want to revisit techniques or want to continue the delightful journey.

Class Limit – 12

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **11:00 am**

Latest Results from the Search for Planets outside our Solar System

Instructor: **Stephen Danford PhD**

Astronomers have long assumed that planets were common in our universe but until 1995 searches had failed to find a single one outside our solar system. That has changed, and new planets are discovered weekly. Where are they? Are they similar to our Earth? We will discuss these issues and the studies of extrasolar planets to be undertaken by the Webb Space Telescope.

Dr. Danford is a retired UNCG Physics and Astronomy and Chair of the AIL Planning Committee.

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16**

Time: **11:00 am**

“Timely Opportunities in this Rare Interest Rate Environment”

Instructors: **Chad Barber & Keith Hiatt, CPA**

In this class we will discuss 1) Year-end tax planning; 2) Making sure you're taking advantage of rare opportunities; 3) Legacy planning; and 4) Learn how to avoid capital gains in a taxable account.

Chad is a Financial Advisor & Accredited Asset Management Specialist with Blue Ridge Bank/LPL Financial. Keith is a CPA and partner with the firm Breslow, Starling, Frost, Warner, Boger & Hiatt, PLLC.

Dates: **Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9**

Time: **11:00 am**

Are you excited for a New Year? Sign up quickly for a great semester?

Click here for the website to pay for the classes:

<https://shepnet.wufoo.com/forms/qivfeav05mpdjv/>

Or, you can copy and paste that link into your browser

(If you have never paid online, or need help, please call Sandy 10:00-4:00 at number noted.)

***** Remember to watch your email for the Step 2 links to get you into those Zoom Classes. You will need to put yourself into the Zoom roster **before 2/1** to get the links to the classes. *****

Thank you for your interest and we'll see you in these February-March classes!

Vickie Williamson, Program Manager

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336.501.8849 mobile

Sandy Doyle-Jones, Executive Director

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Shepherd's Center of Greensboro is on a mission *to help older adults pursue independent and active lives of purpose.*

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4063 Greensboro, NC 27404

Website: www.shepctrq.org 336.378.0766



p.s. Our shared winter break was such fun! We'd like to continue sharing learning options with the St. Andrews Shepherd's Center. Their winter session begins 1/31 for 8 weeks, with Zooms on Tuesday & Thursdays. While 3 of their classes are the same as what we are offering this semester, there are additional topics: Handel's Messiah, the theology of Les Miz (taught by a retired minister who began his career as the lead singer in a rock & roll band), Trivial Pursuits, and a series of TED talk discussions. Their registration fee is \$45 and information is online at:

<https://shepherdscenterofstandrews.org/courses/#Online>