



Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

OLLI's 2013 Winter Session

4-Weeks

**Tuesday, January 22* –
Monday, February 18, 2013**

**Chicago and Evanston
Study Groups**



**To honor Martin Luther King, Jr., study groups will not be held on 1/21.*

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

Winter Session
Tuesday, January 22 – Monday, February 18, 2013

Study Group Descriptions
Chicago Campus

MONDAY

#3834 The Extraordinary Rise and Appeal of Living Alone **NEW**
Monday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions, beginning 1/28)

Coordinator: Gary Benz

Lincoln Park native Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at New York University, has written a book about the biggest demographic shift since the baby boom—living in single-person households. Expecting to find lonely, disengaged people; Klinenberg discovered exactly the opposite—healthy people deeply involved in social and civic life. Study group members will analyze and discuss the challenges and opportunities of this growing demographic segment that now surpasses the number of traditional nuclear families. We will read 50 pages per session of *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone* (Penguin Press hardcover, 2012) and supplement the author's material with our knowledge of Robert Putnam, Barbara Ehrenreich, Betty Friedan and our own friends and neighbors!

#3835 Inuit Art -Treasures from the Land of Ice and Snow **NEW**
Monday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions, beginning 1/28)

Coordinator: Becky Davidson

The exquisite sculptures, carvings and drawings, done by the Inuit peoples of Canada (originally called Eskimos) depict their culture, legends, and lifestyle. Two preliminary classes held at Wieboldt Hall will study, through pictures and provided reading materials, the lives of the native peoples of Canada. The highlight of our study group will be a trip to the Allen Center on Northwestern's Evanston campus, where with the guidance of the curator, we will see the world class collection of Inuit Art, there on display. Our final class, back at Wieboldt Hall, will include a discussion of our 'field trip,' and a short film.

#3836 Monday at the Movies Celebrates James Bond
Monday, 1-4pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions, beginning 1/28)

Coordinators: Peggy DeLay, Ray Rusnak

We recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first James Bond feature film, *Dr. No*, made in 1962. Over the years, six different actors have portrayed Bond. We're going to watch films with four of these actors: Sean Connery (*Goldfinger*, 1964), Roger Moore

(*The Spy Who Loved Me*, 1977) Pierce Bronson (*Goldeneye*, 1995) and Daniel Craig (*Casino Royale*, 2006). Each film has its own villains, unusual deaths, cool new gadgets and creative names for some of the women. These are the subjects we'll discuss after each screening. And after the last film, we'll take a vote as to which actor was our favorite Bond...James Bond.

TUESDAY

#3837 The Game Is Never Over: The Baseball Movie Study Group

Tuesday, 10am–1pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Rich Dubberke, Martha Bills

From the turn of the 20th century and on into the 21st century, baseball carries on as our national pastime. Continuing the baseball movie series, we will see four baseball-focused movies.

Cobb: In an edgy biography of Ty Cobb, from his glory years to an appearance at the Hall of Fame in 1961, a sportswriter is commissioned to do a laudatory biography but has second thoughts considering Cobb's disposition. *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*: An examination of the career of America's first Jewish star and one of baseball's greats which according to reviews, "hits a home run." *A League of Their Own*: The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was founded in 1943 and flourished until the end of WWII when the men returned from the war. The league was consigned to oblivion, but "There's no crying in baseball." *Money Ball*: The manager of the Oakland A's, Billy Bean, challenges the system to rebuild his small market team on a limited budget. This film is a sharp, funny portrait of baseball today. We've got the movies and the Cracker Jack, to paraphrase Ernie Banks, "Let's play four!"

#3838 Progressive Ideals: Endangered or Outdated?

NEW

Tuesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Vera Antoniadis, Roberta Dawson, Janet Rosen Eaton, Sandy Eddin,

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt ran for President on the Progressive Party ticket. Although he lost to Woodrow Wilson, a progressive Democrat, many of the ideals of the Progressive Party have become a reality. The 2012 election, however, saw potential challenges to the progressive legislation that had been passed over the course of the previous century. Also challenged in 2012 was the premise that government should set up programs that provide a safety net for citizens in need.

We will read a sampling of articles or speeches by Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Walter Rauschenbusch and Robert LaFollette. These writings centered on the idea that government was required to step in to deal with the dramatic societal changes that arose out of rapid industrialization and urbanization. Our source for these documents is *American Progressivism, a Reader*, edited by Ronald J. Pestritto and William J. Atto (Lexington Books paperback, 2008). After our first introductory class, group participants will be able to choose documents from our text, and have the option of including other sources that represent the conservative traditions of individualism and self-reliance. The

purpose of this study group will be to read and discuss the merits or fallacies of both points of view.

#3839 Shakespeare's Othello

Tuesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Peggy Shake, Phyllis Faulman

Is Othello a victim of racism or a jealous fool? Is Iago angry because he didn't get the lieutenant position or does he just enjoy causing others pain? The action in Othello moves from the fondest love and most unbounded confidence to the tortures of jealousy and the madness of hatred. Join us as we experience a deeper appreciation of the beauty of the words written by one of the world's greatest playwright by first reading Othello aloud—and then discussing its themes of passion, prejudice, revenge, despair. Copies of the play will be distributed to participants the first day of class. On the last session we will watch an acclaimed video of the play.

#3840 Visions of the Apocalypse – Bonus Workshop

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am, Wieboldt Hall (8 sessions, beginning January 8)

Instructor: Amber Peckham

From ancient religious texts foretelling the wrath of God to more modern concerns about nuclear holocaust or a supervirus, the ways that our civilization might collapse have occupied the human cultural imagination for centuries. In this study group we will examine different visions of the apocalypse weekly as a launching board for discussion on this rich topic and how it can be depicted in literature. Some of the authors we will be reading are Ray Bradbury, Douglas Adams, Margaret Atwood, Harlan Ellison, Pat Frank, and Cormac McCarthy. Students will be asked to purchase a course packet containing the readings for the class, which will not exceed \$20 in price. This will include short stories, excerpts from novels, and scholarly articles/literary criticism. We may also have a session dedicated to the apocalypse in cinema and television if this holds interest.

In addition, during weeks 2-5 students will be asked to bring new writing to class each week, to be handed out and discussed the following week. This discussion will be held with emphasis on the elements of craft at work and how the piece could grow larger. These writings are meant to be unfinished, and can range in length from a paragraph to several pages. The pieces can all be related, or not. Students will be asked to select one of these shorter pieces to be expanded into a work of at least 5 pages, which will be shared with the class for feedback in the final 2 weeks.

This class is offered in affiliation with the School of Continuing Studies' MA/MFA in Creative Writing (MCW) program. **NOTE: This study group has an early start date of January 8.**

Amber Peckham is a second year MFA student in the nonfiction genre at Northwestern. She grew up in Belleville, Indiana, and completed her undergraduate study at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where she was a double major in creative writing and philosophy. She is a regular reviewer for the ALA publication *Booklist*, and her work has also appeared in *The Barefoot Review* and *TriQuarterly*. She is also an assistant editor for

the book review section of *TriQuarterly*. When not writing, she enjoys sewing, travel, spending time with her family, and of course, reading.

#3841 What does the Bible say about ...?

NEW

Tuesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Howard I. Aronson

So-called “social” issues have played a significant role in creating the divisiveness that has characterized our recent politics. Partisans on both sides often turn to the Bible to defend their points of view. The purpose of this study group is to objectively evaluate what the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament has to say on these issues. Using Richard Elliott Friedman and Shawna Dolansky’s *The Bible Now* (Oxford University Press hardcover, 2011), we will investigate what the Bible actually does say about the following major issues of our time: homosexuality, abortion, women’s status, capital punishment, and ecology. As the authors say, “The Bible’s value, above all, is as a guide to lives. And we mean to all of our lives, whether one is religious or not, whether one is Christian, Jewish, or from another religion or no religion.... You don’t have to be Christian. You don’t have to be Jewish. You don’t have to be religious. You just have to be aware that this ancient text—the Bible—makes a difference.”

#3842 Curtain Up!

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Barb Shaeffer, Judy Widen

Curtain Up! is a delightful way to experience Chicago’s dynamic theater scene. Join us during the 2013 Winter Session as we read aloud together Harold Pinter’s 1958 groundbreaking comedy, *The Birthday Party*. Our group will learn about playwright Pinter and his significant impact on British and American drama of the 1960s. We will devote two class sessions to reading the script (copies will be made available) together before we go to Steppenwolf Theater to see their new production of this modern classic. (Group rates apply for our tickets.) An enjoyable (but optional) part of the evening is a pre-performance dinner together in a restaurant across the street from the theater. At our final class session, after we have seen the play, we will discuss how well the Steppenwolf production fulfilled our own vision of the play. Thespians-at-heart who love good theater and good times together—this group’s for you!

#3843 Film or Short Story: Which is Better?

NEW

Tuesday, 1-4pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Mark Chernansky

Some of our favorite films actually began life as a short story. This study group gives you the opportunity to experience both and decide for yourself which works better. You’ll read the original story, then see the film adaptation and join in a discussion comparing and contrasting the two. Are the story lines, settings and characters the same or are they different? Did the transition from written page to theatrical experience alter what you felt? Did one turn out to be more effective and/or more entertaining than the other, or were both equally good in their own right? Voice and share your opinions with others, and plan to make it a lively discussion.

Our text will be *No, But I Saw the Movie: The Best Short Stories Ever Made into Film* edited by David Wheeler. Currently out of print, used copies are available on Amazon.com. Varying genres will be covered: drama (*Bad Day at Black Rock*), comedy (*It Happened One Night*), mystery (*Rear Window* or *Psycho*), and westerns (*High Noon* or *Stagecoach*).

#3844 Thomas Jefferson: The Politician

NEW

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Vera Antoniadis, Roberta Dawson, Jackie Bergen

In "*Negro President*": *Thomas Jefferson and the Slave Power* (Mariner paperback, 2003), Garry Wills discusses the political relationship between Thomas Jefferson and slavery. Jefferson won the election of 1800 with Electoral College votes derived from the three-fifths representations of slaves who were partially counted as citizens. That count was the basis of "the slave power" granted to southern states. This made some Federalists call Jefferson the Negro President —elected because of the slave count's margin.

As Wills probed the workings of Jefferson's presidency, he came to the conclusion that the best interests of the slave states factored into Jefferson's most important decisions and policies. Opposition to these policies was led by Federalist Timothy Pickering, elected to Congress to spearhead the political battle against Jefferson and the institutions that supported him. But the Jeffersonians proved to be superior strategists, outmaneuvering the Federalists at every turn – until 1861.

The purpose for this study group is to examine the politics of Jefferson, and later his party, the Jeffersonian Republicans, and Federalists. Their differences proved to be irreconcilable and led to Civil War.

#3845 What to Listen for in Music

NEW

Tuesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (3 sessions, beginning 1/22)

Coordinator: Joe Hausner

For those of you who enjoy classical music, this is the study group for you. If immersing yourself in beautiful sound is your ideal way to spend a wintry day, then warm up with us as we try to understand how a particular piece came together. All kinds of musical forms will be discussed and we will listen to our favorite examples during the study group. So, before you purchase your next Opera or Symphony tickets, join us in discussing Aaron Copland's very readable work, *What to Listen for in Music* (Signet Classics paperback, 2011).

WEDNESDAY

#3846 The Multiple Identities of the Middle East

NEW

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Emanuel Kahana

The Middle East is the birthplace of ancient civilizations, but most of the modern states that occupy its territory today are of recent origin, as are many key concepts of communal and individual identity and loyalty that the peoples of the region now confront. In *The Multiple Identities of the Middle East* (Schocken paperback, 2001), eminent Middle East historian Bernard Lewis elucidates the critical role of identity in the domestic, regional, and international tensions and conflicts of the Middle East today.

Examining religion, race and language, country, nation, and state, Lewis traces the rapid evolution of the identities of the Middle Eastern peoples, from the collapse of the centuries-old Ottoman Empire in 1918 to today's clash of old and new allegiances. He shows how, during the twentieth century, imported Western ideas such as liberalism, fascism, socialism, patriotism, and nationalism have transformed Middle Easterners' ancient notions of community, their self-perceptions, and their aspirations.

To this fascinating historical portrait, Lewis brings an understanding of the region and its peoples, as well as a profound sympathy for the plight that the modern world has imposed on them. The result is an invaluable tool in our understanding of an area that is of increasing global importance and concern today.

#3847 The New Yorker, Wednesday

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Esther Reiter, Lenore Melzer

Inside its famous covers and beyond the cartoons, *The New Yorker* magazine is dedicated to quality, topical writings, and ideas. Our peer-led group discussions will be as varied as the contents of this distinguished magazine. Join us as we explore art, technology, politics, personalities, medicine, movies, fiction, fashion, culture and commentary. You will find your view of our current world expanded.

#3848 TED Lectures: Ideas Worth Spreading

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Jean Schwartz, Madelyn Seckler

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to the world of ideas. The TED website represents a clearinghouse that offers free knowledge and inspiration from the world's most inspired thinkers on a wide variety of topics including technology, entertainment, design, the sciences, humanities, business and the arts. Available at www.ted.com, the TED lectures bring to the world a stimulating variety of fresh and innovative global ideas in 18 minute segments.

If you believe in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world, become part of our group of curious souls. You will have the opportunity to react to

riveting talks by remarkable people. Each week a participant will select and screen two videos from the TED library and lead the group in a discussion based on each video. Internet capability is required.

#3849 Vietnam: A History

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Les Reiter, Jack Blackstone

This course is designed to analyze and discuss possibly one of the most seminal events of the second half of the 20th century. What began after World War II as a struggle against colonial imperialism led to the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu and soon became a test of wills between Communist forces and the U.S. government in the midst of the Cold War. The conflict impacted three presidents and changed the course of U.S. diplomacy.

While this study group is a continuation from the fall semester, it is not necessary to have taken the fall study group to participate in this study group. We will focus on Lyndon Johnson's obsession with winning the war at all costs, the Tet offensive, continue through Richard Nixon's process of "Vietnamizing" the war, and conclude with the peace that never was. We will complete Stanley Karnow's *Vietnam: A History* (Penguin paperback, 1997), supplemented by other resources. The book is filled with fresh revelations drawn from secret documents and from exclusive interviews with the participants — French, American, Vietnamese, Chinese: diplomats, military commanders, high government officials, journalists, nurses, workers, and soldiers.

#3850 Zero, a Biography

NEW

Wednesday, 10am-noon, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Saul Benzeev, Joan Sophie

ZERO is really *something*. It was born, as a useful symbol, into Babylonian mathematics. Its usefulness there was understood to be mainly as a lowly placeholder for other numeric symbols. Zero's peculiarities made it unacceptable as a friend, so placeholder had to suffice. Zero then sought a better position in foreign lands. It did indeed find it when it went east of Babylon (to India, for example), where it was seen as sacred, a religious mystery, even before it joined the scientific world. However, when it travelled westward the response was quite painful: Egyptians ignored it. Greeks banned it. Medieval Western Europeans demonized and feared it. In all cases Zero (and its alter ego, Infinity) seems to address central values and issues of cultures. And so in modern times Zero sits at the heart of such issues as motion, energy, and all the way to the theory of everything, the big bang.

We'll be reading, *ZERO: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea*, by Charles Seife, (Penguin Books paperback, 2000). Seife, a correspondent for *Science*, a London-based international weekly science magazine, tells this story from a unique and almost amused perspective which makes it lively and human. You rarely come across a book on such topics that turns out to be a page turner. Participants in these four-sessions of reading and discussion can look forward to enjoyment of a well-told story whose content is relevant to what is happening today.

#3851 *The Economist Magazine*

NEW

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Patricia Ames, Jerry Levine

The Economist is known for its informative and thought-provoking reporting on political and economic developments around the world. Join us as we review several articles selected from the current week's issue as catalysts for informed and lively discussion on the critical topics of our time. Subscription to *The Economist* at the student rate is encouraged but not a requirement; the only requirements are Internet access and a healthy interest in world affairs.

#3852 Fugitive Slaves and Their Trials

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Joe Hinkel, James Cherney

This study group will look at the tumultuous period of the 1850s when no issue was more divisive than the pursuit and capture of fugitive slaves. The practice and procedures for recovering runaway slaves were authorized under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. We will explore this issue by examining three of the most dramatic trials of the time. These trials involved high legal, political and human drama. Since few of us will be aware of the outcome of the trials, they read like a modern legal thriller. We will consider the events leading up to, the conduct of, and the outcome of the trials. In addition, we will compare trial and legal practices in the 1850s to those practices today.

Our text will be *Fugitive Justice: Runaways, Rescuers and Slavery on Trial* by Steven Lubet (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press hardcover, 2010). Professor Lubet is a member of the Northwestern Law School faculty and a leading authority on trial advocacy. His telling of this important story mixes his excellent understanding of the legal system with the skills of a legal fiction writer. As an added feature, Professor Lubet will visit during our final session. Join us to gain a deeper understanding of this important event in our nation's history.

#3853 Like Suspense? Go against the Master—Alfred Hitchcock **NEW**

Wednesday, 1-4pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Les Reiter

If you like mystery and suspense then this study group is for you. You will have your chance to match wits with the master of terror and suspense—Alfred Hitchcock. We will view four of his movies: *The Lady Vanishes* (1938), *The Farmer's Wife* (silent 1928), *Rich and Strange* (1932), and *The 39 Steps* (1935). About 10 minutes before the end of the movie it will be paused and you will have an opportunity to discuss how you think the story will end. We will then watch the end and see if you are able to match wits with the master of suspense and figure out the end. Is your ending better than his? As Hitchcock says, "There is no terror in the bang, only in the anticipation of it."

#3854 Psyche and Soul: Compatible Partners or Strange Bedfellows?

Wednesday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

NEW

Coordinator: Geri Flynn

This study group will explore the work of several famous psychologists whose classical theories of personalities include an understanding of religious dynamics. More specifically, we will read and discuss the work of Carl Jung and his theory of Individuation and Archetypes; William James' theory of Temperament and Pragmatism; Abraham Maslow's theory of Self-Actualization and Erich Fromm's theory of Humanism.

Each theory focuses on the *human dimension* of religion, the psychological roots of religious sensibility, the quest for *personal transformation and wholeness*, albeit each in unique and differing ways. In our discussion we will explore the psychological dynamics underlying religious beliefs, attitudes and behavior, the *connections between psyche and soul*. Is there a difference? Are they connected? Join us for a fascinating look at these men and their thoughts on religion. Selected readings will be distributed to the participants of the study group.

THURSDAY

#3855 GLASSWORKS: The Music of Philip Glass

NEW

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Russ Lyman, Roxane McLean

In 1970, during a performance of one of Philip Glass' works, an enraged audience member rushed onto the stage. The composer, a former boxer, punched him with one hand and carried on playing with the other.

How did a composer who provoked such ire (people *still* seem either to love his music or to hate it) become the Academy Award winning writer of dozens of film scores (including *Thin Blue Line* and *The Hours*), while writing hundreds of instrumental and vocal compositions, two dozen operas, and nine symphonies?

Join us in an exploration of the multi-faceted career of Philip Glass. We will see and discuss a variety of materials—clips from operas, dance, film, and interviews—and listen to a broad selection of his music. The course revolves around a fascinating 2007 documentary, *Glass: a portrait of Philip in twelve parts*. If you think you know Glass' music or if you don't, if you love it or think you don't, you'll be surprised by much of what you see and hear.

At the conclusion of our study group, you're invited to attend the Chicago Opera Theater's production of Glass' chamber opera *The Fall of the House of Usher* in late February (standard admission charges).

#3856 Washington Week

Thursday, 1:30-3:30pm, Wieboldt Hall (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Carolyn Adams, Donald Moel, Joe Simchak, Judy Widen

Washington Week's Winter Session will kick off immediately after Inauguration Day. This up-to-minute study group will observe carefully the early appointments and actions of the Administration, as well as the new configuration of Congress. Our sources will be a variety of daily newspapers, political blogs, TV commentary, and journal articles. We will follow very closely what transpires at the edge of the fiscal cliff, analyzing how it was created and how it was/might be averted. To frame our discussions of the political atmosphere in Washington, we will read *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism*, by Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution and Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute (Basic Books hardcover, 2012). Washington Week will also continue to watch the Supreme Court of the United States for major decisions regarding voting rights and affirmative action, as well as any appointments of new Justices. Our discussions will be timely, well-informed, and lively. Come join us!

###

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Northwestern University School of Continuing Studies

Winter Session
Tuesday, January 22 – Monday, February 18, 2013

Study Group Descriptions
Evanston Campus

Monday

3824 *The New Yorker*

Monday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions, beginning 1/28)

Coordinators: Hillis Howie, Nancy Anderson, Dick Whitaker

This study group is for long time fans of *The New Yorker* as well as newcomers! Each session will examine the contents of the current issue and then explore a previously assigned article in depth. A volunteer discussion leader who has chosen the article leads the discussion. Conversations are lively and often followed by lunch. Participants will be encouraged to become “watchers” who briefly discuss cartoons, movie reviews, covers, or some other aspect of the current issue.

3825 Noel Coward’s Plays

NEW

Monday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions, beginning 1/28)

Coordinators: Sue Altman, Neal Mancoff

The works of Noel Coward, one of the most prolific English playwrights of the 20th century, continue to delight audiences to the present day. The plays are both light hearted and fun, often ending with a poignant, unusual twist. In each of the four sessions we will focus on one play: *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Fallen Angels*. (Copies of these plays are readily available; you may read any version that is available to you.)

We’ll view selections of the plays on YouTube and, even better, we will choose specific passages, scenes and acts to read aloud. The portions for class readings will be handed out in class. It’s just amusing to dip into this very English upper class world that we enjoyed so often on stage and screen in the past.

Tuesday

#3826 Historic Churches of Chicago

NEW

Tuesday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Jane Roth, Barbara Ghoshal

Why travel to Europe to see architecturally and artistically important sites? Join us as we study and visit some of the historic churches of Chicago. The churches selected for the winter (Holy Name Cathedral, 735 N. State; Annunciation Greek Cathedral, 1017 N.

LaSalle; St. James Chapel, 65 E. Huron) are all accessible by CTA and will feature docent-led tours. For each church we will not only learn about the art and architecture but also about the ethnic group members who founded it and what they wished to convey about their culture. Our on-site visits will require that participants be able to walk several blocks, climb stairs and stand for periods of time. The first class meeting will be to introduce the subject, review learning resources and confirm travel arrangements. The remaining three sessions will be morning field trips with possible lunch following the scheduled site visits.

#3827 One More Day at the Opera

Tuesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (2 sessions)

Coordinators: Neil Adelman, Chuck Lange

The subject of the study group is *Rigoletto*, Giuseppe Verdi's operatic masterpiece combining fatherly love, seduction and vengeance. *Rigoletto* is the eighth opera in Lyric Opera of Chicago's current season. Our first session will be a lecture about the opera and with musical excerpts. The lecturer is an experienced volunteer lecturer from the Lyric Opera Education Department. In our second session we will view a DVD of either the entire opera or of excerpts. There may also be a short discussion about the opera. Our second session may extend to 3:30pm. Here is an opportunity for those unfamiliar with this genre to get a brief introduction to great theatre, as well as for those who have already been introduced to opera to delve into one of the great works of the standard repertoire.

#3828 *The Professor and the Madman*

NEW

Tuesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Susan Schuster, Naomi Fisher

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is known as one of the greatest literary achievements in the history of English letters. Its creation began in 1857, took 70 years to complete, drew from tens of thousands of contributors, and organized the sprawling language into 414,825 precise definitions. But hidden within the rituals of its creation is a fascinating and mysterious story of a friendship—an account of two remarkable men whose strange 20-year relationship lies at the core of this historic undertaking.

We will read *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Harper Perennial paperback, 2005) by Simon Winchester, which the *New York Times* described as “a fascinating, spicy, learned tale.” Participants in this study group will become better acquainted with the famous OED. Through lively class discussions we will examine the history of dictionary making, learn how the OED came to be, and even discover how to make our own contributions to this great dictionary!

Wednesday

#3829 Americans in Paris: The Music They Heard

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Barbara Peterson, Patty Dreibelbis, Phyllis Anderson

The story of Americans in Paris is long and complex, and at each point it is underpinned by music and other arts. In these four sessions we will explore some of the music that was heard in Paris during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We will begin with a travelogue set to Chopin's music, consider Aaron Copland's time in Paris and the music he wrote, hear some of the performances of black Americans in Paris (who were welcomed there before they were here), and look at two mid-century French composers—Poulenc and Messiaen—whose modern works have appeared in concerts everywhere. While this study group connects with the two-semester study group on "Americans in Paris," it is not necessary to be a participant in that group to enjoy this no-preparation required study group.

#3830 Creative Writing Workshop

Wednesday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Ron Denham, Jo Stewart

This workshop is for those who love words and is designed for the improvement and practice of creative writing skills across the various genres: poetry, creative non-fiction, essay, memoir, and fiction. Participants present their work to the group for response, encouragement, critique and suggestions. Revisions and resubmission are encouraged. Longer works can be submitted in segments. This workshop will give you the creative outlet you want, while giving you an opportunity to produce a finished piece of writing that you can be proud of.

#3831 *The Book Thief*

NEW

Wednesday, 1-3pm, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinator: Hillis Howie, Barbara Ghoshal

The Book Thief (Alfred A Knopf paperback, 2007) by Markus Zusak has been praised by critics and readers alike. Through the eloquent and surprisingly sympathetic narrator Death, Zusak introduces us to Liesel Meminger, a young foster girl living outside Munich during World War II. As the war shapes the world around her, she finds courage in her books and in the friendship with a Jewish man whom her foster family shelters in their basement. The Chicago Public Library chose *The Book Thief* as the Fall 2012 selection for One Book, One Chicago, and Steppenwolf Theater Company adapted the novel for the stage. We will read about 135 pages a week, discussing each section separately under the guidance of a volunteer discussion leader.

Thursday

#3832 Four Films of Katherine Hepburn

NEW

Thursday, 9:30-11:30am, 1840 Oak Ave. (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Mareon Arnold, Barbara Peterson

The name “Katharine Hepburn” was enough to attract generations of people to the movie theaters, from the 1930s to the 1990s. This short study group will feature four of her best-known films: *Philadelphia Story* (1940), co-starring Cary Grant and James Stewart; *The African Queen* (1951), co-starring Humphrey Bogart, who won his only Oscar for this performance; *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner* (1967), co-starring Spencer Tracy and Sidney Poitier, a film credited with helping the civil rights movement; and *On Golden Pond* (1981), co-starring Henry Fonda and Jane Fonda, the only time father and daughter worked together in a film. No preparation is necessary for participants in this group: just come and enjoy.

Friday

#3833 Making Sense of the News

NEW

Friday, 9:30-11:30am, 405 Church St. Room #104 (4 sessions)

Coordinators: Joel Weiss, Stanley Cohen

Are you interested in understanding the news of the day? Do you want to share your thoughts about topical issues with others who have a similar interest? Then this is the group for you! Approximately one week before each meeting you will receive from the coordinators about four diverse articles chosen by study-group members and the coordinators from well-respected newspapers, magazines, etc. These will be the basis for a lively discussion. The articles may cover politics, science, world problems, and any other issues that are deemed important, interesting and thought-provoking. It is expected that time will also be available for additional, spontaneous discussion of other issues.

###