

HIGH COUNTRY LIFELONG LEARNERS

Spring 2015 Catalog of Programs and Events

Most programs are held at the Lois E. Harrill Senior Center at 132 Poplar Grove Connector in Boone, unless otherwise noted.

We have had some trouble scheduling rooms for our programs this semester. Therefore, please check the schedule carefully as the DAYS AND TIMES are not always on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00 pm.

In fact, our first program is on a Monday, March 2nd, rather than a Tuesday as there wasn't a room available for that program on the scheduled date of Thursday, March 5th.

Jen Teague, Director, Senior Center, has worked very hard to accommodate High Country Lifelong Learners this semester. We appreciate all she does for us.

Lifelong Painters

When: Every Wednesday: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Leader: JoAnn Pippin, watercolor artist with 20 years of experience

Description: Join JoAnn and others who gather every Wednesday for a "paint together" session. Just bring your watercolors and equipment and be inspired by this lively group of painters. All levels are invited, but some experience with watercolor is helpful.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – Classroom 3

Election Observations for Fun and Profit

When: Monday, March 2nd, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: What is an election? Why do we pay so much attention to whether or not a country holds free and fair elections? For at least a quarter century, governmental and non-governmental agencies have paid close attention to the conduct of elections as a measure of the democratic process around the world. Yet, it is also the case that many autocratic governments regularly hold elections, but no one would call these countries democratic.

Professor Paul Gronke will discuss the importance of election rules in determining election outcomes, with a focus on his experiences as an international election observer in Kyrgyzstan, Albania, and Ukraine. He will discuss how international organizations try to assure that elections around the world—including the United States—are free and fair, and how we in the United States might use this information to reflect on our own democratic experience.

Dr. Paul Gronke is the Daniel German Distinguished Professor of Political Science at ASU and the Director of the National Early Voting Information Center. He has served for more than a decade as an elections monitor throughout the world .

Location: Harrill Senior Center - 2nd Floor Conference Room

Boone, NC: Present and the Future - Mayor Andy Ball

When: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Mayor Andy Ball will share with us the current and future plans for the City of Boone.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - 2nd Floor Conference Room

Walk - Maze and Apple Barn from Bass Lake

When: Friday, March 6th, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Description: Leisurely walk from Bass Lake up the Maze to the Apple Barn for a break and snack and back down by the main trail. Very moderate uphill walk, 3.5 miles on trail sheltered from winds (once we cross the dam).

Location: Bass Lake, on Hwy 221 1/2 mile w of Main St., Blowing Rock, NC

Instructions: Meet at lower (main) Bass Lake parking area near restrooms. Bring water, a light snack and warm clothing. Call Juin Adams at 828-295-9607 if you wonder if the hike may be cancelled for bad weather or if you think you will be late.

Movies at the Library

When: Monday, March 9th, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Description: Annie Hall (1977) 93 minutes The romantic adventures of neurotic New York comedian Alvy Singer (Woody Allen) and his equally neurotic girlfriend Annie Hall (Diane Keaton) is ranked #2 on the American Film Institute's list of the 10 greatest films in the genre "Romantic Comedy". After breaking up with his girlfriend Annie Hall, Alvy Singer goes on a stream of consciousness journey through his memories of their relationship, trying to find out what caused them to part ways. He often breaks the fourth wall, speaking to the camera, entering peoples' stories, and even using animation.

Location: Watauga County Public Library

Instructions: If you like, bring a seat cushion, snack, BYOBeverage and we will have the popcorn.

Book Talk

When: Thursday, March 12th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Share your most recent interesting reading, including House of Spirits by Isabel Allende, niece of Salvador Allende. Through the lenses of the Trueba family, readers follow the portion of Chilean history that leads to the 1973 coup of Allende.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - 2nd Floor Conference Room

Know Watts Cooking-the Physics of Energy-Efficient Cooking with Professor Carla Ramsdall

When: Tuesday, March 17th, 10:00am to 11:30am

Description: Join us as Professor Ramsdall cooks up some soup or stew the most energy efficient way.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - Classroom 1

Contemporary Adventures in Peru

When: Wednesday March 18th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Dr. Lee F. Ball of ASU will speak on traveling and doing service in the Peruvian Andes and the Amazon Basin, with students from ASU. He will also talk on the challenges facing Peru in 2015.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Bass Lake-Cone Manor Loop Walk

When: Friday, March 20th, 10:00am to 12:30pm

Description: Come for a walk at a relaxed pace on the Bass Lake-Cone Manor Loop trail. 4.5 miles, moderate. We will go counterclockwise to take advantage of the more gradual uphill grade and protection from any winds. We'll stop at the Cone Manor house for a snack break.

Location: Bass Lake parking area 1/2 mi. w of main street, Blowing Rock

Instructions: Meet at lower (main) Bass Lake parking area near restrooms at 10am. Call Juin Adams at 828-295-9607 before 9am if you are wondering if the hike will be cancelled due to bad weather or if you think you will be late.

Insights into Genesis: Be Careful About Your In-Laws

When: Tuesday, March 24th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Dr. Alan Hauser continues with "Insights into Genesis" as he discusses Genesis 34, The rape of Dinah and the Slaughter of the men of Shechem.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Adventures in Thailand and Burma

When: Wednesday, March 25th, 2:00 – 3:00pm

Description: Join Sue Spirit and Marcia Hickman as they share about their exciting adventure in a small teakwood boat on the Irawaddy River in Burma. Learn more about Aung San Suu Kyi and her brave quest for peace and democracy in Burma.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - 2nd Floor Conference Room

Origins of Theatre and Drama

When: Tuesday, March 26th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Although many people believe western theatre and drama began with the plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, they are only the earliest playwrights whose plays have survived. There are actually a number of conflicting theories about the origins of theatre and drama. Frank Mohler, Professor Emeritus at Appalachian State University, will explore some of these theories to determine what we really know.

Location: Harrill Senior Center

A School Principal's Take on Common Core and Other Hot Topics in Education

When: Tuesday, March 31st, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Retired Principal and current ASU professor Bob Heath will share his insights into Common Core, No Child Left Behind, the impact of increasing poverty in our schools, and what can be done to improve them.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Volunteering at Grandfather Mountain

When: Thursday, April 2nd, **3:30pm to 5:00pm**

Description: Join Lesley Platek, Volunteer Coordinator, as she shares with us the exciting roles volunteers at Grandfather Mountain play in the overall enjoyment of visitors' time on the mountain.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Prehistoric Ancient Societies - Dr. Josette Maxwell

When: Tuesday, April 7th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: It's important to understand that western archaeologists long, long ago decided (and imposed upon the discipline) their definition of what constitutes a "civilization". Among other things, there must be evidence of actual writing (according to their definition of "writing"), evidence of an authority based government, etc.. Thus, many great civilizations without having left evidence of an ability to write or lacking an authoritatively governing structure are

relegated to the "non-civilization" status regardless of their extremely impressive accomplishments. You can decide if they really deserve to be called civilizations older than, in many cases, the western dictate that the earliest civilization was in Mesopotamia, Sumer.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – Classroom 1

Book Talk

When: Thursday, April 9th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Share your recent interesting reading, including *The Storied Life of AJ Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. A bookstore owner faces hard times before getting the chance for a new change. This novel is a love letter to the world of books and an affirmation of why we read and why we love.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Movies at the Library

When: Monday, April 13th, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Description: *Good Will Hunting* (1997) Will Hunting, a janitor at M.I.T., has a gift for mathematics, but needs help from a psychologist, actor Robin Williams, to find direction in his life. *Good Will Hunting* tells the poignant story of Will and Sean's coming to terms with the blows life has dealt them and with the questions that lie in the future. This movie won Academy Awards, 1998, for Robin Williams, best supporting actor, and Matt Damon and Ben Affleck, best writing.

Location: Watauga County Public Library

Instructions: If you like, bring a seat cushion, snack, BYOBeverage and we will have the popcorn.

History and Environmental Involvement of Appalachian Voices

When: Tuesday, April 14, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Appalachian Voices is an award-winning, environmental non-profit committed to protecting the land, air and water of the central and southern Appalachian region, focusing on reducing coal's impact on the region and advancing our vision for a cleaner energy future. Join us as we welcome staff member Kimber Ray who will educate us about the history of the organization and its many on-going projects dealing with mountaintop removal, the Dan River coal ash spill last Feb, and volunteer opportunities including water quality training and testing.

Location: Lois Harrill Senior Center – Classroom 1

Lillian Nave Goudas - Monuments Men

When: Wednesday, April 15th, **2:30pm to 4:00pm**

Description: Lillian Nave Goudas returns! This time she will discuss how the Nazis looted the great art of Europe during World War II and how the Allies retrieved and protected it.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – Classroom 3

Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden Outing

When: Friday, April 17th, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Description: The gardens are situated on 380 acres on the banks of Lake Wylie and include azalea and formal gardens, woodland trails for you walkers, an orchid conservatory which also houses many tropical plants, and much more. There are many benches throughout the gardens. Snacks and drinks are available on site, but coolers and picnics are allowed anywhere on the grounds. Admission \$11 for seniors. For a preview, go to their website at www.dsbjg.org. An extra car for quilters can be made up to stop at Mary Jo's Fabric, exit 21 on I-85 on the return trip.

Location: Meet at Shoppes on Parkway, Blowing Rock for carpooling

Instructions: We'll meet at 10 am at the outer edge (near the entrance) of the parking at Shoppes on the Parkway, Blowing Rock and carpool. The gardens are located 9.5 miles south of I-85 on exit 20 (Rt.279 New Hope Rd. Driving time 1 hour 45 min (85 miles) from Blowing Rock. Call Juin Adams (828-295-9607) so she can be looking for you.

Insights into Genesis: Have you heard about Tamar and her Father-in-Law?

When: Tuesday, April 21st, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Dr. Alan Hauser continues with "Insights into Genesis" as he discusses Genesis 38: Have you heard about Tamar and her father-in-law? What a breach!

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Come Meet the New Dinosaur Discovered in North Carolina

When: Tuesday, April 28th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Bring your grandchildren and join us as Dr. Andrew Heckert shares his recent discovery of a new genus and species of dinosaur right here in North Carolina, *Gorgetosuchus Pekinenis*.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Salman Rushdie - The Satanic Verses, Presented by Dr. James Ivory, Professor of English, ASU

When: Wednesday, April 29th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: The Satanic Verses (published in 1988) should be considered among one of the most significant and important novels written in the twentieth century. It is easily one of best postmodern novels, displaying themes and ideas that explain a postmodernist condition.

Rushdie's literary brilliance is second to few writers and his attention to identity, history and nationalism make him an obvious successor to modernist James Joyce. Moreover, his novels not only entertain but challenge readers to engage deliberately with an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. Foreshadowing current tensions between East and West, 9/11, the war on terror, the Arab Spring, Charlie Hebdo and the rise of ISIS/ISIL,

The Satanic Verses controversy placed Salman Rushdie in the center of a hailstorm of protests, book burnings, violence, deaths, and debates over the lines between artistic freedom and blasphemy. On February 14, 1989, the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iraq issued a fatwa, announcing a "death sentence" for the writer of The Satanic Verses. From that point, The Satanic Verses "became" much more than a work of literature; it became a firestorm of controversy within an extremist ideology. Anyone who wishes to better understand the current geopolitical landscape could do little more than begin with reading and discussing Rushdie's The Satanic Verses.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Blasphemy: Insult to the Sacred

When: Thursday, May 7th, 3:30pm to 5:00pm

Description: Join Dr. Sandie Gravett as she explores how different religions understand blasphemy and how these understandings sometimes lead to the violence we see in the headlines. The place of artists, writers, and others in a free society to push the boundaries and the use of offensiveness as a form of that expression will receive close consideration.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Moses Cone Graveyard Walk

When: Friday, May 8th, 10:00am to 11:30am

Description: Come for a walk at an easy pace from the Cone Manor House to the graveyard and then on to the hill overlooking the meadow for a view of Boone and Blowing Rock. Approx. 2.5-3 miles.

Location: Cone Manor, milepost 294, Blue Ridge Parkway

Instructions: Meet at the Cone Manor parking lot in front of the carriage barn (and restrooms) at 10 am. Call Juin Adams (828-295-9607) before 9am that morning if you are wondering if the hike will be cancelled because of rain or you think you will be late.

Movies at the Library

When: Monday, May 11th, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Description: Shakespeare in Love (1998) In this romantic comedy, a young Shakespeare, out of ideas and short of cash, meets his ideal woman and is inspired to write one of his most famous plays. Tom Stoppard, who penned Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, knows a thing or two about the modern deconstruction and reconstruction of Shakespeare's work and it shows in this movie. Winner of 7 Academy Awards. Stars: Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, Geoffrey Rush, Judi Dench and many others.

Location: Watauga County Public Library

Instructions: If you like, bring a seat cushion, snack, BYOBeverage and we will have the popcorn.

Learn About KAMPN Inc. and LIFE Village--local autism programs

When: Tuesday, May 12th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Join Dr. Jim Taylor, an expert with 50 years' experience in special ed, as we learn about his established program in Deep Gap called KAMPN, or Kids with Autism Making Progress in Nature. And his newest venture, LIFE Village, being developed for adults with autism. Jim and his colleagues will have just returned from a cross-NC bike ride to raise funds and awareness for Life Village.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – Classroom 3

Book Talk

When: Thursday, May 14th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Share your recent interesting reading, including Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut, an important anti-war film about the bombing of Dresden. WCL shows the film on June 18, 2015 at 6:30pm.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - – 2nd Floor Conference Room

What Is Veganism?

When: Tuesday, May 19th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: More people than ever before are becoming aware of the importance of their food choices. We will discuss the specifics of a vegan diet and talk about the health, environmental, and ethical reasons behind veganism. Jeanne and Larry Kaiser will be our speakers.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Activism and Feminism in the 19th Century

When: Thursday, May 21st, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: Join us as we welcome Dr. Maggie McFadden, retired ASU professor, who will relay the fascinating life of Muriel Lester (1885--1968), British feminist, world traveler and pacifist, as well as compatriot of Mahatma Gandhi. Muriel is one of several activists Dr. McFadden has researched for her current book.

Location: Harrill Senior Center - -- 2nd Floor Conference Room

Private Behind the Scenes Tour - ETSU Natl. Hist. Museum at Gray Fossil Bed, TN

When: Friday, May 22nd, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Description: 1 pm "Behind the Scenes" tour at E. Tenn. St. Univ. Natural History Museum at the Gray Fossil site.

This museum introduces visitors to the 5-million old Gray Fossil beds, offering views of an ongoing fossil dig as well as exhibits and a film about the discovery of the site during road construction in 2000 and the story of life around an ancient watering hole of tapirs, alligators, camels, rhinos, shovel-tusked elephants, saber-toothed cats and red pandas, to name a few of fossils found.

For a preview, go to www.etsu.edu/naturalhistorymuseumexhibit/exhibits.aspx

Location: Hwy I-26 north of Johnson City, TN. - carpool from Harrill Senior Center, Boone, NC Parking lot, upper King St.

Instructions: Call Juin Adams 828-295-9607 by Sunday evening, May 17, if possible, so she can let the museum know how many people will be on our tour.

Meet at the outer edge of the Harrill Senior Center parking lot (near the entrance) at 10 am and carpool to the museum which is north of Johnson City just off I-26. It will be a 1 hour 30 minute (64 miles) drive with a stop for lunch along the way.

If you prefer to meet at the museum, Juin would still like a call for the head-count for the tour leader. Invite your friends! The more, the better our showing will be.

Thoreau, Walden, and the Reform Movements of the 1840s

When: Tuesday, May 26th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Description: The social turmoil in the USA of the 1840s provided the backdrop for the creation of Walden, an American classic. This talk will include both an overview of life in that decade, including its many emerging social movements and specifics on Thoreau's experiment in living a life in harmony with nature. Our speaker will be Larry Kaiser.

Location: Harrill Senior Center – Classroom 3

The following organizations offer programs that members of High Country Lifelong Learners enjoy:

Chargers and Rechargers – www.boonenc.org/hiking/

Watauga County Public Library – www.wataugacountylibrary.com

High Country Audubon Society – www.highcountryaudubon.org

Watauga County Arts Council - www.watauta-arts.org

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) – www.blowingrockmuseum.org

Mountain Friends – marysunshinetza@aol.com