

## 2017 Spring Catalog of Programs and Events

### High Country Lifelong Learners

Most speaker presentations, writing workshops, Lifelong Painters, and book talks are held at the Lois E. Harrill Senior Center, 132 Poplar Grove Connector in Boone, with some exceptions. Please note room location and time.

Monday Movies at the Library are held at the Watauga County Public Library, 140 Queen St., Boone.

### LIFELONG PAINTERS

LIFELONG PAINTERS WATERCOLOR STUDIO with local artist JoAnn Pippin meets weekly on Fridays from 10:00 to 3:30 at the Harrill Senior Center. No fee. Come any time during these hours to be inspired by local artists who are wild about watercolor. Bring your paints and maybe your lunch. For more information, contact JoAnn Pippin at [rj2pip@yahoo.com](mailto:rj2pip@yahoo.com).

### CLASSES IN MARCH:

**Wed., March 1: Writing Workshop led by Sue Spirit.** Do you love to write? You will enjoy the friendly atmosphere of our small writing group. You will get lots of writing prompts, lots of surprises, and info to help you know how to share your writing with the world. Come and join us! Meets in Classroom 3 from 12:00 to 2:00pm. This class will meet on all other Wed. in March: 8, 15, 22, 29.

**Mon., March 6: In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone.** Award-winning author and story-teller, Randell Jones, shares stories about America's pioneer hero Daniel Boone: Market hunter, frontier guide, wilderness scout, master woodsman, expert marksman, Indian fighter, militia leader, surveyor, land speculator, judge, sheriff, coroner, elected legislator, merchant, tavern keeper, prisoner of war, Spanish syndic, husband, father—Daniel Boone led one of the fullest and most eventful lives in American history, including 21 years in North Carolina before marking Boone Trace into Kentucky in March 1775. The Watauga County seat is his namesake, and a wonderful

place from which to explore his adventurous life. Mr. Jones has written several books on Daniel Boone including "Trailing Daniel Boone," the story of the DAR marking Daniel Boone's Trail from 1912-1915. He received the national History Award Medal from the National Society, DAR in 2013, in part for this book. He will also have copies of his book on the Battle of Kings Mountain, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail. "Scoundrels, Rogues, and Heroes of the Old North State" and his latest title, "From Time to Time in North Carolina." He will also have copies of "Before Liberty," a history of NC from discovery to independence, and will bring autographed copies of a wonderful historical fiction about Rebecca Boone. The author is a descendant of Daniel and Rebecca. She is a chemistry professor in Kentucky and spent 10 years crafting this wonderful story. Please bring cash or checks if you would like to purchase any books. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., March 8: ASU Cultural Ambassadors Panel Discussion.** Prof. Lindsay Pepper, Director of International Student Education and Development at Appstate, returns with not 1 but 4 students this time! Mauxi Alacron (Mexico), Cam Hill (Australia), Yash Metha (India), and Razan Alaqil (Saudi Arabia) will discuss topics revealing their impressions of the US and Appstate, as well as taking questions from the audience. What would you like to ask our international students? **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Fri., March 10: Walk the Boone Greenway 9:30am.** We will join Dave Johnson and walkers from the Blue Ridge Hiking Club for a leisurely walk followed by lunch out for those who feel like it. Rated easy: up to 4 miles, paved, and mostly level. **Location:** Clawson Burnley Park on Hunting Hills Ln parking area.

**Mon. March 13: Monday at the Movies—**"The Joy Luck Club" (1993) 139 min. The movie, based on Amy Tan's 1989 best-selling novel, tells the story of four women who were born in China and eventually came to America, and of their daughters. The "Joy Luck Club" of the title is a group of four older Chinese ladies who meet once a week to play mah jong, and compare stories of their families and grandchildren. What is about to be forgotten are the

origins of the women, the stories of how they were born and grew up in a time and culture so very different from the one they now inhabit. Location: **Watauga Public Library, Boone. Time: 2:00pm.** If you like, bring a seat cushion, snack, BYOBeverage and we will have the popcorn.

**Wed., March 15: Women, Religion and the Question of Religious Violence.** Presented by Dr. Laura Ammon, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at ASU. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Mon., March 20: A History of Quilts.** Artist Jennifer Franz will be showing samples of quilts and discussing a brief history of the fabric art. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., March 22: The Thoreau Bicentennial.** July 12, 2017 is the 200th birthday of Henry David Thoreau. We will discuss how his reputation has changed over the decades and how Thoreau might react to life in America today. Larry Kaiser, our speaker, has as his special interest 1840s American history. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Fri., March 24: Nature Walk—Bass Lake and Maze Loops.** Get out for some fresh air, a visit with friends and a leisurely walk on the Cone Manor carriage trails around Bass Lake and up the Maze loop, stopping at the old apple barn for a snack and rest before coming back down to Bass Lake. Perhaps we will see the first green shoots of spring growth as well as white swans, Canada geese and wood ducks. Rated easy: 3.6 mile walk, very gentle climb from the dam to the apple barn. **Location:** Bass Lake lower parking area, off Rt. 221, 1/2 mile west of Blowing Rock. **Time: 9:30 to 12:00.**

**Mon., March 27: Ancient Roman Textiles from Egypt—Pagan to Christian.** This art focused talk explores the ancient textiles of the Roman period discovered in Egypt. Commonly called 'Coptic textiles,' these objects retain their vibrant beauty even after up to a thousand years in the desert sand, and they raise a number of interesting questions. One is the very designation 'Coptic,' which implies a Christian religious context--yet many depict frankly pagan

imagery even into the fifth century AD. An overview of Egypt in the Roman period and its art will move to a focus on the textiles themselves. Our speaker, Dr. John Stephenson is an artist, collector, art historian, and world traveler. Prof. Stephenson participated in archaeological excavations at Carthage in North Africa, and he attended archaeological field school at the American Academy in Rome. He moved to Boone in 2008 to teach at Appalachian State University, where he now studies and presents topics in ancient art of the Mediterranean. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Tues., March 28: A Visit to Iceland.** Is Iceland really made up of ice??? Come and find out what it is really like. Diana Mast White and Carol Neill, world travelers, present another of their fascinating travelogues. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

## **CLASSES IN APRIL:**

**Mon., April 3: Gerrymandering in NC.** Prof. William Hicks will discuss voter suppression and ethnic disenfranchisement in N.C. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Tues., April 4: Southern Appalachian Folk Tales.** We welcome back Joe Lowman, retired Prof. of Psychology at UNC, whose other career continues on--story telling! In the tradition of his mentor, Richard (Uncle Dick) Chase, Joe has been collecting southern Appalachian folk tales since childhood. As part of the UNC Chapel Hill Speakers Bureau for over a decade, Joe shared his versions of Uncle Dick's stories across North Carolina from Elizabeth City to Murphy. Since retiring and moving back to Boone Joe has been happy to continue Uncle Dick's tradition. Joe is a natural and entertaining yarn-teller and you are in for a treat! **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., April 5: Asian Art by Dr. Mira Waits.** Mira Rai Waits is an art and architectural historian of modern and contemporary South Asia. Dr. Waits teaches courses at ASU on Asian art and

architectural history, Islamic art and architectural history, contemporary Asian visual culture, and the visual culture of the global city. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Fri., April 7: Guided Bird/Wildflower Walk At Trout Lake, 9:30am to 12:00pm.** Janet Palmer will be leading a two hour walk/ talk around Trout Lake, telling us about the spring flowers and birds that gather there. Janet is amazingly knowledgeable about both subjects and her walks are quite popular. **Location:** Trout Lake off Shulls Mill Road. **Instructions:** Call Juin Adams 828-295-9607 by at least the night before so Janet can have an idea of the size group she will be leading. Also, call Juin if you need a ride to the site from the Senior Center.

**Mon., April 10: Monday at the Movies: Citizen Kane (1941) 119 minutes.** Orson Welles was just 25 years old when he directed, co-wrote, starred in and produced this, his very first feature film. The quasi-biographical film examines the life and legacy of Charles Foster Kane, played by Welles, a character based in part upon the American newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst. Film scholars and historians view Citizen Kane as Welles's attempt to create a new style of filmmaking. Nominated for 9 academy awards. **Location:** Watauga Public Library, Boone. **Instructions:** If you like, bring a seat cushion, snack, BYOBeverage and we will have the popcorn. **Time: 2:00—4:00pm.**

**Wed., April 12: Paper, Paint, Plaster.** Presenter: Local artist Norma Suddreth uses three mediums to create art. She will describe and demonstrate how native plants, gathered locally, can make paper, upon which she paints with watercolor. Also, she creates pulp with which she sculpts. Examples of each will be displayed. To most persons, paper making and fresco are not similar. However, she finds the process very similar and will demonstrate. Norma will demonstrate how she creates small frescoes, some of which are in regional churches. She will also exhibit some primitive tools for making both paper and frescoes. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Mon., April 17: The Buddha's 4 Noble Truths.** Presented by Dr. Xi He. During his first sermon in Sarnath near Benares, the Buddha

taught the Four Noble Truths re suffering. They have shaped Buddhist thought, practice, and communities for more than 2500 years and continue to be the foundational teachings of Buddhism which teach the realities that we often fail to see as they are. Currently Dr. Xi is an adjunct instructor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at ASU. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Tues., April 18: The Various Canons of Scripture.** Presented by Dr. Alan Hauser. Both Judaism and Christianity firmly assert that they abide by God's word as stated in Scripture. Yet, neither religion has the same canon, or list of scriptural books, to which all of its believers adhere. For example, within Judaism, today's Samaritans accept only the Pentateuch, or five Books of Moses, as scriptural, agreeing thereby with the ancient but now deceased movement of the Sadducees, while other ancient and contemporary Jews accept a significantly larger canon, including the Prophets and the Writings. The ancient Essenes, who wrote the famous Dead Sea Scrolls, had an even larger collection of books they regarded as authoritative. Within Christianity, you have the Protestants, who accept the same collection of books recognized by mainstream ancient and modern Judaism (same content, arranged differently), while Roman Catholics have a list approximately a dozen books longer. Christians also accept the New Testament, which the Jewish community, of course, does not. Dr. Alan J. Hauser is Professor of Biblical Studies at Appalachian State University, and is in his 45th year of teaching at Appalachian. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., April 19: Christian Nationalism in the Trump Administration.** Dr. Sparks will discuss the role of Christian nationalism both in the rise of the Trump administration, as well as the administration's agenda moving forward. The importance of authoritarian personalities, the purpose in weakening public education, the role of disinformation, why ethics won't matter, policies impacting women's ability to control reproduction, and how so much of the GOP's agenda can directly contradict the teachings of Jesus--while still garnering support from so many self-described Christians--will be discussed. Dr. Sparks is a criminologist, and the author of numerous articles and the books *The Devil You Know: The Surprising Link between Conservative Christianity and Crime*, *Intimate Partner*

Violence: Effective Policy, Programs, and Procedures, and Violent Crime in America: Examining the Facts, which is scheduled for release in 2019. She is the latest recipient of ASU's Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Fri., April 21: Wildflower Walk on the Lower Profile Trail, 8:00am to 10:00am.** The wildflowers by the creek will be lush by now. We can take our wildflower books and enjoy a leisurely time identifying plants and enjoying springtime at its best. Rated moderate: 2+ miles with plenty of rest stops going up hill. **Location:** Meet at Senior Center parking lot, carpool to Profile Trail, Hwy 105, Banner Elk. **Instructions:** Call Juin Adams 828-295-9607 by at least the night before so she can plan for the car pooling.

**Mon., April 24: Food Insecurity in Our Area.** Rev. Tommy Brown will discuss F.A.R.M. Café, food insecurity and creating community. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Tues., April 25: Web Bullying.** Dr. Cathy Marcum will be discussing the current reliance of technology and the Internet to form romantic relationships by teenagers and college students, as well as the negative ways these same methods assist in stalking and bullying their romantic partners. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., April 26: The Re-emergence of Anti-Semitism.** Boone's Mayor and retired History Professor Rennie Brantz will discuss: Seventy-two years ago the world celebrated the end of Hitler and Nazism. Most people believed the scourge of racism and anti-Semitism had been eliminated forever. An international order emerged that sought to prevent future holocausts. Yet today neo-Nazi groups espousing the same hateful slogans and racism have gained ground throughout Europe and even in the United States. This presentation will examine the emergence of these neo-Nazi voices today and their impact on European and global society. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**CLASSES IN MAY:**

**Mon., May 1: Polarized Politics in Contemporary America.** Phillip J. Ardoin is a Professor of American Politics and serves as Chair of the Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University. Dr. Ardoin will present a scholarly examination of the roots and historical context of President Donald Trump's unconventional approach to governing and the partisan and ideological divisiveness we are experiencing in contemporary American politics. Dr. Ardoin will also address some of the misconceptions and conventional wisdom with regard to our current state of polarized politics and possible solutions for America to move forward. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Fri., May 5: Wild Ponies Excursion to Grayson Highlands.** Carpool from the Senior Center at 9:30am to Grayson Highlands State Park in VA. Photographer Elizabeth Wegmann will lead a hike (2-5 miles) along the Appalachian Trail to view 2 herds of the semi-tame wild ponies living within the park. We will also spend a little time in the Visitors' Center. Bring water and a lunch you can eat along the trail. Bring a hiking pole if desired. We should return to the Senior Center by 3:30-4:00pm. Please call organizer Eva Rand to let her know you are coming: 301-758-4375. Please arrive 15 min. early. Rain date: May 12.

**Mon., May 8: Monday at the Movies—"Bridge of Spies" (2002), 142 min.** During the Cold War, an American lawyer is recruited to defend an arrested Soviet spy in court, and then help the CIA facilitate an exchange of the spy for the Soviet captured American U2 spy plane pilot, Francis Gary Powers. Directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Matt Charman and Ethan Coen and Joel Coen. Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, and Alan Alda star in this great spy thriller based on a true story in the period of the Cold War.

**Location:** Watauga Public Library, Boone. **Instructions:** If you like, bring a seat cushion, snack, BYOBeverage and we will have the popcorn. **Time: 2:00 to 4:30pm.**

**Tues., May 9: Book Talk.** June Mann invites you to share your favorite reads and to get new ideas. **Meet at 2:00pm in Classroom 1—Enter the Project on Aging; first room on the left.**

**Mon., May 15: Immigrants and Muslims Out! Myths and Facts About Immigration in America.** Dr. Cameron Lippard, Associate Professor in ASU's Department of Sociology, will discuss America's problems with immigration. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Tues., May 16: Why Do Democracies Fail?** Dr. Josette Maxwell returns! She will begin by describing a classification system for determining the type of government of the 166 countries of the world. Twenty were classified as democracies in 2015 and, on that list, the US was number twenty (Norway was number one). Not surprisingly, they are all "western civilization" countries. The remainder range from flawed democracies to authoritarian regimes. It's been a focal point of US foreign policy for several decades to promote what is called "democratization" or the creation of democracies in other countries, particularly those that are classified as developing countries. And, such efforts have been a total failure because democracies supposedly established fail to survive. Why? Is the US slipping into the "flawed democracy" category? **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., May 17: The Innocence Project.** Professor Robert Norris will discuss: Social Movements, Civil Rights, and the Justice System: A Discussion of Wrongful Convictions and the American Innocence Movement. Robert J. Norris, Ph.D. is author of "Exonerated: A History of the Innocence Movement." He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and Justice Studies, Appalachian State. In recent years, the American justice system has been at the center of civil rights discourse and advocacy. One particular issue that has captured the public's attention is wrongful convictions. Nearly 2,000 people have been exonerated after being convicted of crimes they did not commit, federal and state governments have passed laws to prevent such injustices, lawyers and police have changed their practices, and advocacy organizations have multiplied across the country. These activities, collectively called the "innocence movement," have been described as a "new civil rights movement." This presentation will provide a discussion of what we know about wrongful convictions, what the innocence movement is, and how it fits into the modern era of civil rights advocacy. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Mon., May 22: Election Results of the Appalachian Region.**

Dr. Billy Schumann, Director of the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University, will discuss two facets of the Appalachian region that partially defined the last presidential election cycle: Appalachia as a voting bloc and Appalachia as a media representation. The lecture will look at the roles of both demographics and rhetoric in defining the Appalachian region within our present national consciousness. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Tues., May 23: Mission to Zimbabwe.** Travel with us, Amy and Wayne Van Devender to one of the poorest countries in the world, whose government exists only to line the pockets of the president for life and his close confederates. In stark contrast, it is a land of incredible beauty and vast reserves of natural resources and resourceful people. Contrast Harare in the west and Mutare in the east, and follow us to Victoria Falls on the mighty Zambezi, and Hwange National Park. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

**Wed., May 24: Writing Workshop.** See description from March 1. **This class will be repeated on the following Wed., May 31.**

**Fri., May 26: Walk from Cone Manor to Trout Lake.** We'll have a pleasant one-way downhill walk through a lovely wooded section of the Cone Estate and along the shore of Trout Lake. Rated easy: 2 miles, even footing on broad trails. **Location:** Cone Manor house parking, Carriage Barn end, Mile Post 294, Blue Ridge Parkway. **Instructions:** Call Juin Adams 828-295-9607 if you need her to arrange a ride from the Senior Center to the site. **Time: 8:00am**

**Tues., May 30: A Recent Visit to Pluto!** Bob Cantu presents: An exciting description of the New Horizons Spacecraft that made a close flyby to Pluto two years ago, followed by a poem Bob has written entitled: "The Cosmos Unfolding", a Big Bang evolution to the present. **Meet at 2:00pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.**

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

Lois E. Harrill Senior Center –

[http://www.wataugacounty.org/main/App\\_Pages/Dept/Aging/Newsletter/](http://www.wataugacounty.org/main/App_Pages/Dept/Aging/Newsletter/)

Blue Ridge Hiking Club – [www.blueridgehikingclub.com](http://www.blueridgehikingclub.com)

Watauga County Public Library – [www.wataugacountylibrary.com](http://www.wataugacountylibrary.com)

High Country Audubon Society – [www.highcountryaudubon.org](http://www.highcountryaudubon.org)

Watauga County Arts Council - [www.watauta-arts.org](http://www.watauta-arts.org)

Blowing Rock Art and History Museum (BRAHM) – [www.blowingrockmuseum.org](http://www.blowingrockmuseum.org)

Mountain Friends – [marysunshinetza@aol.com](mailto:marysunshinetza@aol.com)

Blue Ridge Chapter Native Plant Society - [blueridgencnps@yahoo.com](mailto:blueridgencnps@yahoo.com)