
Greenfield Community College

Senior Symposia

Spring 2017



Greenfield Community College
Downtown Center
270 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 775-1661

www.gcc.mass.edu/creditfree/senior-symposia

**Online Registration, Payment, and Discounts
NOW Available!**

About Senior Symposia

The Senior Symposia program at Greenfield Community College is a collaborative effort between Greenfield Community College's Office of Workforce Development and Community Education and area senior citizens to provide a way for area seniors to continue their education in a format that best suits their needs, interests, and resources.

Registration Policies

While walk-ins are normally welcome, participants are strongly urged to register online at www.gcc.mass.edu/creditfree/senior-symposia, or on the enclosed form. Online payment is secure, convenient, and fast. Preregistration assures your seat for the event, and assists us in planning and assures a seat for the symposium of your choice. A full refund will be made if a symposium is cancelled.

Spring 2017

A fee of \$10.00 is charged for each symposium. Pre-register and pay for all symposia before the Spring season commences and receive one free registration (\$70.00 cost).

Senior Symposia Program Planning

The program is planned by a volunteer committee drawn from the community. The committee welcomes suggestions for topics and speakers. We sometimes have openings on this committee. If you are interested in serving, please email rabinskym@gcc.mass.edu.

Pre-registrants are also eligible to **request financial assistance**. A space for these requests appears on the enclosed registration form.

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT US: Bring along a friend for FREE.

Guest passes are available at the registration desk for these first-time attendees.

In case of inclement weather call: (413) 775-1010.

If GCC is closed, the symposium will be cancelled.

Greenfield Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Office of Community Education at (413) 775-1661.

Spring 2017 Calendar

Week of	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1/30		2/1 Slavery in the Valley	
2/20			2/23 Wintering Over
3/6			3/9 Gilded Age Police Scandal
3/13	3/14 Honey Bee Under Siege		
3/27		3/29 Female Jackie Robinson	
4/3		4/5 Tales From a Legislator	
4/10	4/11 Bad Women of Greek Tragedy		
4/17			4/20 Richard Strauss

Slavery in the Valley: Five Unsung Heroes Who Resisted

Presenter: Robert H. Romer

Wednesday, February 1, 2-4 p.m.

In colonial times, slavery was widespread in the Connecticut Valley, where most of the “important people”—including most of the ministers—owned two or three black slaves. By no means did all of the enslaved people in the Valley—some born in Africa, some born into slavery—passively accept their status as the property of white owners. Romer will tell what is known of the stories of five who, in various ways, actively resisted, and will explain why it is important to remember those who lived here in slavery, the “invisible men and women” of our colonial past.

Robert H. Romer, physicist and historian, is Professor of Physics, Emeritus, at Amherst College, where he taught from 1955 to 2001. He is the author of *Slavery in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts* (Levellers Press, 2009) and *The History of Hope Church in Amherst* (2013). He was the 2012 recipient of the Amherst Historical Society’s Conch Shell Award for distinguished contributions to local history.

February

Wintering Over, A Birdseye View

Presenter: Bill Danielson

Thursday, February 23, 2-4 p.m.



Illustrated by photos Danielson has taken over the past 19 years, this presentation will explore the physiological demands of survival in cold weather and the various foods and strategies that are available to different types of birds. Sometimes there are advantages to being small and other advantages to being large.

Bill Danielson grew up in Amherst and studied wildlife biology at UMass Amherst before working as a law enforcement ranger for the National Parks Service at the Gateway National Recreation Area and later as a field technician for the U.S. Forest Service in the White Mountains. With a Master's Degree in wildlife biology from UMass, he worked as a wildlife biologist for the Forest Service studying neotropical migratory birds. This year he will celebrate 20 years writing "Speaking of Nature" and photographing birds for the *Greenfield Recorder*.

The Gilded Age Police Scandal and the Progressive Era

Presenter: Daniel Czitrom

Thursday, March 9, 2-4 p.m.

In 1892, Charles Parkhurst, an Amherst College graduate and pastor, leveled explosive charges against the New York City Police Department and Tammany Hall. Two years later, his crusade forced the first sensational political investigation of the modern era and kick-started the Progressive Movement. A state-appointed committee uncovered unprecedented evidence of how the police force managed New York's lucrative vice economy, extorted payoffs from respectable businesses, and enjoyed immunity from charges of police brutality. Czitrom's talk will touch on the research challenges that he faced in writing *New York Exposed* and on themes that resonate today: vote fraud and suppression, the stubborn resilience of partisan politics, and anti-urbanism in American life.

Born and raised in the Bronx, **Daniel Czitrom** is Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College. He has written several critically acclaimed books and has appeared in documentary films for PBS. His latest book is *New York Exposed: The Gilded Age Police Scandal That Launched the Progressive Era* (Oxford, 2016).

March

The All-Important Honey Bee Under Siege in Franklin County

Presenter: Dan Conlon

Tuesday, March 14, 2-4 p.m.

Conlon will discuss the history of Franklin County beekeeping, which began the modern management of honeybees in the 1830s. Lorenzo Langstroth, the father of modern beekeeping, lived much of his adult life in Greenfield. He was a noted inventor and author of *The Hive and the Honeybee*, the first book on practical honeybee management. The talk will provide a historic and a scientific understanding of modern beekeeping and the impact one very small insect has on our world. We will follow modern apiculture from the 1890s to the current crisis in beekeeping, colony collapse disorder and disappearing native pollinators, and explore how to restore health to our honeybees.

Dan Conlon has kept bees for 50 years. He and his wife Bonita own Warm Colors Apiary in South Deerfield, where they maintain 700-800 bee colonies and produce 500-plus queen bees annually. In addition to selling beekeeping equipment and supplies, WCA's staff offer "hands on" workshops to new and experienced beekeepers. He is president of the Russian Honeybee Breeders Association.

The Negro Baseball League and Its Female Jackie Robinson

Presenter: Martha Ackmann

Wednesday, March 29, 2-4 p.m.

Toni Stone was the first woman to play professional baseball in the Negro League. She replaced Hank Aaron on the Indianapolis Clowns and later signed with the legendary Kansas City Monarchs. Playing alongside Willie Mays, Buck O'Neil, Ernie Banks and Satchel Page, Toni let her talent speak for itself. Her story chronicles a remarkable career facing down not only fastballs but jeers, sabotage, and Jim Crow America itself.

Martha Ackmann is a journalist and author who writes about women who have changed America. Her columns have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Salon*, and she has been featured on NPR, CNN and the BBC. Ackmann's books include *The Mercury 13*, about women pilots who secretly tested to be astronauts in the early days of the space program, and *Curveball*, the story of Toni Stone. She is currently working on a book about Emily Dickinson. Ackmann received her Ph.D. from UMass Amherst and teaches at Mount Holyoke College.

April

Tales From a Former Legislator: A Retrospective

Presenter: Ellen Story

Wednesday, April 5, 2-4 p.m.

Ellen Story, the first woman to represent the 3rd Hampshire District in the Massachusetts State Legislature, will reflect upon her more than 24 years of public service. First elected in 1992 to the House of Representatives, she worked on issues for women and children, mental health issues (especially children inappropriately housed in hospitals), postpartum depression, GMO labeling, and money for public education. Recently retired, she will offer her reflections on progress made on these issues, and the work remaining, as well as her insights into the world of Beacon Hill with its unique language and codes of conduct.

Ellen Story graduated from the University of Texas Austin. After living in various parts of the country, she moved to Amherst in 1972. She was one of the original staff of the Family Planning Council of Western Massachusetts, with whom she served for nearly 20 years. For her work on the state's Postpartum Depression Commission, the commission was recently named in her honor.

The Bad Women of Greek Tragedy

Presenter: Rick Griffiths

Tuesday, April 11, 2-4 p.m.

Consider the enduring hits of the Greek stage: *Antigone*, *The Trojan Women*, *Medea*, *Lysistrata*, *Electra*, and even *Hyppolytus*. Given the dearth of other strong female protagonists before Shakespeare, it's not surprising that *Antigone*, *Hecuba* and *Lysistrata* loom so large. These heroines came from the flowering of Athenian democracy, but that era was also one of the low points for the status and voice of women. The battle of the sexes that raged on the stage had in fact been settled in public life, with free women left veiled and sequestered. There is a mystery here: How did male playwrights, actors and audiences at an extreme moment of gender inequality somehow create powerful female voices that rang and still ring true?

Rick Griffiths teaches in the departments of Classics and of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies at Amherst College, where he has taught since 1972. He has written on Greek and Roman poetry, as well as on African American and (with a colleague) Russian novels.

April

Richard Strauss' Brilliant Operatic High Wire Act

Presenter: William Fregosi

Thursday, April 20, 2-4 p.m.

Instead of pursuing Wagner's heroic themes as the operatic world expected, Richard Strauss composed sensual, often daring music involving massive orchestras and glittering surges of sound. He and his librettists created fascinating, unforgettable women such as Salome, Elektra, and Ariadne auf Naxos. The rise of the Nazi regime forced him to walk a dangerous tightrope between Hitler and Goebbels to maintain his integrity and to protect his dangerously vulnerable family. Ultimately, with peace came a burst of radiantly beautiful valedictory work. Fregosi will discuss some of the greatest Strauss singers of the last 75 years—playing selections from Strauss' earliest operas, the great ones from his prime, and his final operatic rumination on the very nature of opera itself.

William Fregosi is President of the Board of New Hampshire's Monadnock Music Festival and Administrator of the Educational Retreat Center that fosters the arts in education. For 52 years he designed scenery for theater, opera and television in Boston and was Technical Coordinator for Theater Arts at MIT.

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