

Profile:

Art Rosen

Many Adventures in Learning study leaders draw on their careers or life experiences for course subject matter. Art Rosen, who has led seven Adventures in Learning classes, is inspired by his faith and his love of history. His most recent course on the Dead Sea Scrolls and apocalypticism was offered during the fall semester and was, according to one participant, “absolutely fascinating.” Art is a remarkable teacher with a real gift for bringing history to life. Most of his classes have also been given at ILEAD (Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth).



Art actually spent his whole working life in advertising and looks on his Adventures in Learning and ILEAD experiences as a second career—“the one I never had.” A graduate of Brooklyn College with a graduate degree from Yale, Art started in psychology and then switched to sociology. He worked for a while with the sociologist August Hollingshead doing social research. That led to marketing research which, in turn, led to advertising.

See Profile, Pg. 2

Two Extraordinary Women

A few years ago I commented to Bill Sullivan, while he was exercising at Hogan, that I was very interested in the Middle East, especially now that our country was so embroiled in Iraq, and that I had done some reading about it. Really, he said, and what was my opinion of Gertrude Bell? Well, it was a “gotcha” moment because I didn’t have a clue who Gertrude Bell was, and hence couldn’t have an opinion of her. Clearly I had a lot to learn about the Middle East and specifically Iraq. Since then I have read *Desert Queen* and have learned about the huge role Gertrude Bell played in forming the country of Iraq. But now I am eager to learn about Freya Stark, a woman I am led to believe played an equally important role in Middle East politics.

Stark is another fascinating Englishwoman who defied all traditional concepts we hold of women of the early to mid-20th century. Like Bell, she immersed herself in the exotic world of the Middle East, consorted with Arabian sheiks and kings and important heads of state and ultimately had a great influence on the politics of the region. Stark wrote 30 travel books about her Middle Eastern adventures and, during World War II, helped create an extensive propaganda network designed to keep the Arabs friendly to the allies. Accustomed as we are to pictures of modern Muslim women covered in burkhas and veils, it comes as a shock to learn that these two uncommonly adventurous women, both speaking fluent Arabic, entered into a world of men and were accepted on their own terms. Bell lived from 1868 until 1926, and her great influence was prior to and during World War I. Stark’s dates are 1893 to 1993. Her influence extended from 1927 into more modern times.

The lives of Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark will be explored in an eight-week course led by Gail Sanderson, who holds degrees from Mount Holyoke College and Vermont Law School. Her activities stretch from practicing law in the Upper Valley to running a bed-and-breakfast in Wilder, Vermont. She has developed an international study program and created programs for gifted and talented students in the arts. An active member of ILEAD (Institute for Lifelong Learning at Dartmouth), she has also served on numerous Upper Valley boards. Most significantly, traveling the world and discovering other cultures has sparked her interest in leading several courses on women travel writers and chairing the ILEAD Study-Travel Committee.

See Two Extraordinary Women, Pg. 2

Profile, from Pg. 1

Art does see a link between advertising and teaching. Preparation is the key. "Whether you are teaching a class or making an advertising presentation, you have to be ready," he says. "When you are standing before 30 people who are looking to you for something meaningful, it helps to know your subject matter."

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at Colby-Sawyer College**

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Colby-Sawyer College

541 Main Street

New London, NH 03257

(603)526-3720

Fax: (603) 526-3780

adventures@colby-sawyer.edu

www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures

Adventures in Learning Update, published three times annually, highlights the courses and happenings of the Adventures in Learning program at Colby-Sawyer College.

Art's wife Maureen is an enormous help to him in the preparation process. She and Art really operate as a team. Art prepares the lectures, and Maureen provides the visuals—the illustrations, graphs, and maps that flesh out and illuminate the subject. "Maureen is a wizard with PowerPoint," he says "and we always have a video." Their collaboration actually produces a book complete with illustrations which class participants use as a text.

His courses are, for the most part, based on religious history, but he also looks for subject material that is topical. Art is a member of the New Hampshire Jewish-Christian Interfaith Partnership. He is also the Lynch Scholar at Temple Emanuel in Andover, Massachusetts, and as such is invited to give talks or lecture series. In addition, he has spoken at churches locally. Last Palm Sunday he led a service at the Wilmot Congregational Church, and recently during Advent he gave a program on Hanukkah at Saint Andrews Church in New London. "One invitation often leads to another," he says, "and one course, whether with ILEAD or Adventures in Learning, frequently provides inspiration for another." Art, consequently, is a busy man.

The Rosens moved to this area from Saddle River, New Jersey, in 1995. They were looking for a place in a college town near good skiing that would be a magnet for visiting children and grandchildren. Their daughter was the one who suggested the Kearsarge-Sunapee region as a likely location, and they have been here happily ever since—retired transplants like so many of us.

Art has been a great boon to Adventures in Learning, both as a study leader and as a board member. But he says that he has benefited from Adventures in Learning, too. He not only has given courses but has taken many and has had the opportunity to learn from others. There is a social benefit too, he says. Relationships develop with people with shared interests, and he can trace friendships back to his and Maureen's involvement with Adventures in Learning. So the benefit works both ways.

~ Heidi Beckwith

Two Extraordinary Women,
from Pg. 1

Participants will be required to read two biographies: *Desert Queen* by Janet Wallach and *Passionate Nomad* by Jane Fletcher Geniesse. Guest speakers will include author Janet Wallach and Richard Nolte, former ambassador to Egypt.

~ Sally Southard

SAVE THE DATE

for

**Adventures in Learning's
8th Annual Meeting**

Thursday, May 17, 2007

from 4 to 6 p.m.

Wheeler Hall in the
Ware Campus Center at
Colby-Sawyer College

**Business meeting held
from 4 to 5 p.m.,
Followed by hors d'oeuvres and
wine from 5 to 6 p.m.**

Maureen Rosen



Adventures in Learning is featured October 24, 2006, on WNTK's "Twin State Journal."

From left: Charlotte Spencer, Betsy Boege, host Janine Weins and Art Rosen discuss the variety of courses offered for winter 2007.

NEXT APPEARANCE: Thursday, February 1, 2007, from 6-7 p.m. on WNTK at 99.7 FM

Boston Trip: Weaving a Presidential Tapestry

In 1961, John F. Kennedy observed that the "vitality" and "devotion to public interest" of the John Adams family "runs like a scarlet thread throughout the entire tapestry" of American history. Last fall, 42 Adventures in Learning members had the opportunity to explore this rich legacy, not only of the Adams family, but of Kennedy's presidency as well. Traveling by bus to Boston on October 26, the group spent the morning at the Adams National Historical Park in Quincy, followed by lunch at Siros on the boardwalk of Marina Bay, and an afternoon visit to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Original family antiques, portraits, china, framed documents and a magnificent library wing highlighted the informative docent-led tours of the Adams House, built in 1730. Four generations

of Adamses lived in this gracious colonial farmhouse from 1788 to 1927, including two presidents of the United States—John Adams and his son John Quincy Adams—as well as the latter's son, Abraham Lincoln's Minister to England Charles Francis and his six children, one of whom, Henry, authored three classics of American literature.

The site of the JFK Museum, a contemporary triangular building designed in the late 1970s by architect I.M. Pei on waterfront property with a panoramic view of South Boston, provided a sharp contrast to the rural setting of the Adams home. Yet a wealth of historic preservation abounds in each. After viewing an introductory film focusing on Kennedy's early years, visitors were invited to tour on their own a series of rooms devoted to a multi-media

Calendar of Upcoming Events

A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM
Colby-Sawyer College
Spring Theater Production
March 29-31
from 8 to 11 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

ART EXHIBITIONS
Juried Student
Closing Reception
Thursday, April 5, 2007,
from 7 to 9 p.m.
Senior Opening Reception
Thursday, April 26, 2007,
from 7 to 9 p.m.
Marian Graves Mugar
Art Gallery
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

YOM HA SHOAH
DAY OF HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE
Sunday, April 15, 2007,
from 6 to 8 p.m.
Alumni Lounge,
Ware Campus Center

SCHOLARS SYMPOSIUM
Wednesday, April 25, 2007,
from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Various locations at
Colby-Sawyer College

COLBY-SAWYER
COLLEGE SINGERS
Spring Concert
Thursday, May 3, 2007,
from 7 to 9 p.m.
Sawyer Fine Arts Center

A Preview of the Spring 2007 Courses

Adventures in Learning is delighted to offer 12 stimulating courses this term. Classes begin Monday, April 16, and end June 6. The spring catalog containing the registration form will be mailed during the week of February 5, and the registration period will close on Friday, March 9. Be sure to register early as some classes might fill quickly.



Katie Dow

Joseph Kun

Dr. Zhivago: The Movie and the Reality Behind It

The purpose of this minicourse with Joseph Kun is to examine important social, economic and political situations during the period covered in the book *Dr. Zhivago* to compare them with sections of the movie.



Jim Bowditch

Eastern Religions

Jim Bowditch's course will focus on the major trends, developments and practices of Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and Shinto, comparing them with Western religions.



Hilary Cleveland

President Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Era

Special emphasis in Hilary Cleveland's course about Roosevelt's life will be his connection to the Progressive Movement of the early 20th century.



Dave Barden



Jeff Good



Mary Kronenwetter

History and Horticulture at the Fells

In this minicourse, Mary Kronenwetter will give a history of the Hay Estate; Jeff Good will talk about the creation, evolution and restoration of the gardens; and Dave Barden will lead a house tour and a trail tour.



Joe Davis

Who Are the Iranians?

Joe Davis's course will emphasize Iran's increasing role in the world's political system as participants learn about Iran's history and explore what Iran is trying to achieve.



Chuck Kennedy

The Great American Vaudeville Show

Chuck Kennedy's entertaining course will offer extensive viewings of vaudeville on film that has preserved the routines so enjoyed over the years.



Dianalee Velie

Fixed Form Poetry: Discipline as Freedom

In this course with Dianalee Velie, participants will adhere to the disciplines of formal poetry as they write poems that put a premium on technique and balance.



Gail Sanderson

The Spy and the Propagandist: Two Women Explorers in the Middle East

The focus of this course with Gail Sanderson will be the major influence of Gertrude Bell and Freya Stark on British policies of the shrinking British Empire and emerging Arab states in the 20th century. The books *Desert Queen* and *Passionate Nomad* will be read and discussed.

David L. Siegal



Bill Sullivan

World War II in Southeast Asia: The Lowest Priority

In Southeast Asia, the allies had significantly different objectives leading to disagreements, misunderstandings and miscommunications. Bill Sullivan's course will enlighten participants about the battles in this area and their outcomes.



John Mudge

The White Mountains: Forces That Have Shaped Their History

John Mudge's course will give insight into the people, institutions and social forces of New Hampshire's White Mountains that have now become a destination for millions of people each year.



Mark Lewis

For Adults Only: Italian Neorealism in Films

Mark Lewis will reintroduce some films from the period of neorealism in Italian filmmaking, one of the most creative periods in the industry.



Les Norman

2000 Years of Christian Heresy

In this course with Les Norman, so-called heretical beliefs from earliest times through the present day will be examined. Participants will discover how orthodoxy gained and used its authority and power to control heretical movements.

Don't End up in the Vestibule

Advice for life from Dante's *Inferno*

The cosmology of Dante's *Divine Comedy* plots our journey from this earthly life to our place in the hereafter. The Heaven bound are those who purposely chose a righteous way of life and the Hell bound those who consciously choose an evil way of life. Our eternal destination turns on the matter of how we have dealt with evil.

Dante categorizes evil (in ascending order of severity) as: the Lustful, the Gluttonous, the Prodigal and Avarice, the Wrathful, the Heretical, the Violent, the Fraudulent and the Treacherous. Those judged evil will be greeted by the words "Abandon all hope, you who enter here," then assigned to one of the nine circles of the *Inferno*. (Canto V) Did someone just turn up the heat? This is scary stuff.

In our 21st century world, I do not find many folks engaged in a life of conscious evil. Most of us are better intentioned and better behaved. However, Dante's 14th century menu of evil does have application in our modern world. I find two such criteria. They are, first, our commitment to make choices in the use of our time, our energy and our intellect, and secondly, the pursuit and proper use of wealth.

Dante cuts right to the heart of the matter of wealth, condemning the Prodigal and the Avarice, those who never have enough wealth. The Prodigal (or profligate) can never have too much as they are compelled to spend more and more.

The Avarice never have too much as they must hoard more and more. (Canto VII)

In Circle IV of the *Inferno*, the souls of the Prodigal and the Avarice carry the heavy burdens of their wealth in the form of a huge stone that they must forever push in front of themselves. These naked souls circle each other like athletes in a never ending and futile contest, staggering, sweating, and stumbling; their lips snarling as they shout: "Why do you hoard?" "Why do you squander?" Both are suffering eternal punishment for the same root problem: wrongness in "how to have" and "spending that heeds no proportion."

Thoughtful people today find the middle ground marked by prudent spending and acts of generosity. One makes a life by giving it away.

Now, on to the Vestibule. (Canto III) Here Dante finds the uncommitted of the world, a huge congregation not welcome in either Heaven or Hell but condemned to eternal torment. Intellectually detached and socially uninvolved, they refuse to put their time, energy and intellect to useful purpose. Their punishment in the Vestibule is to be forever slogging through a hostile and barren landscape, their bare bodies tormented by wasps and flies. Just desserts for those who thought life was all about sitting around. In our time, these are the folks who say, "Who me? Don't ask me to make a commitment, to join in, to reach out. I don't want to get involved."

In our time and in our community, I take pride and delight in our family of fine folks who are teaching, learning and otherwise laboring for Adventures in Learning, committing their talents to getting out there, getting involved and continuing to learn.

Longfellow wrote of leaving "footprints in the sands of time." Well, leaving footprints is difficult, if not impossible, while reclining on your duff. Making serious footprints in one's lifetime seems the better choice than the prospect of Dante's eternity of wasp stings on the butt. DON'T END UP IN THE VESTIBULE!

Quotations from the Robert Pinsky translation of The Inferno, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1994

~ Richard Cogswell

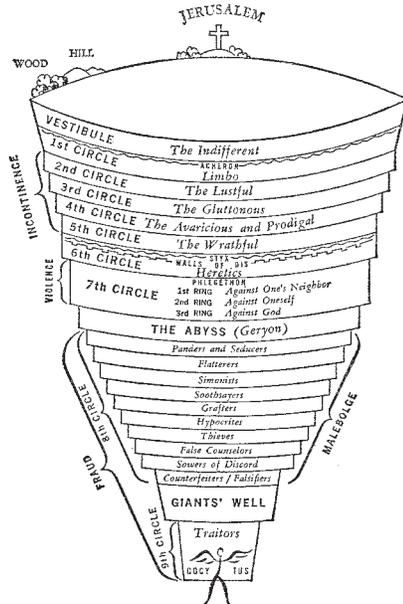
Boston Trip, from Pg. 3

presentation of the Kennedy presidency. The rhythmic rhetoric of such JFK phrases as "Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears.... We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought" were both inscribed on the wall and emanated from video clips throughout.

Organized by Dusty Logan, the itinerary of this day spent up close and personal with the artifacts of three United States presidents indeed offered a remarkable historic tapestry.

~ Ann Lang

Dante Diagram



Hell

Source: *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri-Inferno*
Verse translation by Allen Mandelbaum

“Empires at War” Students Visit Fort Ticonderoga

Some members of the course “Empires at War” by Adventures in Learning pose in front of an 18th century mortar on the parapet at Fort Ticonderoga. The group took a field trip on Friday, October 6, 2006, to study firsthand what they had been reading about in their course.



Bryan Jones

Pictured from left are: Bob Gray, Julien LeBourgeois, Morris Edwards, Herb Spencer, Priscilla LeBourgeois, Peter Machen and Susie Gray.

FAST FACTS

Adventures in Learning Office Location

Our office is located on the first floor of the Colby Homestead on the Colby-Sawyer College campus. Look for the sign at the end of the driveway.

Guest Policy

Many of our classes are oversubscribed and have a waiting list. As a courtesy to our membership, please remember that attendance in Adventures in Learning classes is reserved only for members who have registered and been accepted into the class.

Class Registration

Concerned that your catalog doesn't reach you in a timely fashion? You will find it on our Web site each term right after it has been mailed.

Address Changes

To change your address or to be removed from our mailing list, please call Janet at the number below. Our database is capable of tracking seasonal address changes. Just let us know what dates to send your mail to which address.

Office Closed

Please note that the AIL Office will be closed on Monday, February 19 and March 12, for the college's winter and spring recesses, and on Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day.

Spring 2007 Registration

The deadline to register for spring courses is Friday, March 9. As some classes fill quickly, please be sure to register early.

Program Coordinator

Sharon Ames
(603) 526-3720

Program Assistant

Janet St. Laurent
(603) 526-3690



Adventures in Learning
 Colby-Sawyer College
 541 Main Street
 New London, NH 03257
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Adventures in Learning Comes to Newbury

Surrounded by an exhibition of local art work and pottery, 42 Adventures in Learning students gathered last fall in the Newbury Community Meeting Room to participate in the course entitled “The Dead Sea Scrolls: Apocalypticism Then, Apocalypticism Since.”

The Town of Newbury graciously agreed to accommodate

Adventures in Learning in the Community Room facility. Included was a fully equipped room, comfortable seating for 50, ample space for gatherings around the refreshment table and convenient parking for all.

The Newbury site was not only ideal for the course but also a way for Adventures in Learning to reach out to surrounding communities

and make people more aware of its resources and commitment to adult education.

The Newbury Community Meeting Room, dedicated in the summer of 2005, is used for art shows, meetings, community events, and now for Colby-Sawyer College’s Adventures in Learning program.

~ Maureen Rosen

Maureen Rosen



Front row from left: Anne Stettler and Fay Barden
 Second row from left: Art Rosen, Helmut Schmidt and Renate Schmidt.