Adventures in Learning

Winter 2007
Course Offerings

Registration Deadline:
Friday, November 24, 2006

Colby-Sawyer College
New London, New Hampshire
Welcome to the Adventures in Learning 2007 Winter Term

Adventures in Learning is a community-based program of educational enrichment for adults living in the Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee region. Sponsored by Colby-Sawyer College, Adventures in Learning provides a peer learning experience for those who wish to continue their intellectual growth in an informal setting.
The Curriculum Committee of Adventures in Learning is pleased to offer twelve courses for the 2007 winter term which begins on January 15 and continues through March 5.

We are delighted to welcome and introduce four new study group leaders whose courses are listed in this catalog. We look forward to the contributions of June Fichter, Joanna Henderson, Mike Panebianco and Robert Wood.

**Membership**

If you have not already paid your dues for the July 2006 to June 2007 membership year, please include the $40 membership fee when you register.

**Registration**

To enroll in classes, complete a registration form found at the back of this catalog (or downloaded from the Web site) and send it to Janet St. Laurent, Adventures in Learning, Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main Street, New London, NH 03257.

**Lottery for Oversubscribed Courses**

Registrations for all courses will be counted at the end of the business day on November 7. For any course that is oversubscribed at that time, a lottery will be held to randomly select the participants. For this reason, you may wish to select alternate choices on your registration form. You will be notified if we are unable to enroll you in your first choice.

**Registration Deadline**

Registration for remaining courses with space available continues through November 24.

**Additional Course Policy**

Following the registration period, there is sometimes space available in a course that would interest you. Requests for a course of equal value to the one you are registered in may be made at no additional charge during the registration period and until December 1. Assignments for these courses will be made, as space permits, based on the order the requests are received.

**Books and Other Reading Material**

Books that are selected by study group leaders are usually available for purchase at a discounted rate from Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London. Photocopied materials prepared by study group leaders in addition to or in lieu of a textbook may be purchased from the Adventures in Learning Office.

**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 those members who have registered and been accepted into the class.

**Adventures in Learning Office**

The office is located in the Colby Homestead on the Colby-Sawyer College campus to the right of the Main Street entrance to the Dan and Kathleen Hogan Sports Center. Program Assistant Janet St. Laurent is available Monday through Friday to assist with administrative matters and term registrations. She may be reached at 526-3690 or by e-mail at jstlaure@colby-sawyer.edu. Program Coordinator Sharon Ames may be reached at 526-3720 or by e-mail at adventures@colby-sawyer.edu.

We wish to thank Lake Sunapee Bank, Tracy Memorial Library, the New London Historical Society and the town of New London for making space available for our winter classes.
Adventures in Learning
at
Colby-Sawyer College

The Winter 2007 Term at a Glance
This schedule is offered as a convenient way to review the term.

**MONDAYS**
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. One-of-a Kind Operas / Ron Luchsinger
8 weeks beginning January 15 at the Tracy Memorial Library

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Abigail Adams: Her Life and Times / Joanna Henderson
6 weeks beginning January 15 at the Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room

**TUESDAYS**
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Abraham Lincoln and the Politics of His Time / Millard Hunter
6 weeks beginning January 16 at the New London Town Office Building

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. The Troubled History of Central America / Charlie Carey
8 weeks beginning January 16 at the Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Industrial Revolution in Britain and the United States / Ben Acard, moderator
8 week LECTURE SERIES beginning January 16 at the New London Historical Society

**WEDNESDAYS**
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. The Impact of the West on Japan: 1854-1905 / Jim Bowditch
6 weeks beginning January 17 at the New London Town Office Building

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. The Lake Sunapee Watershed: A Delicate Balance / June Fichter, Robert Wood
3 week MINI beginning January 17 at the Tracy Memorial Library

**THURSDAYS**
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Dialogues with Portraits / Ellen Robertson
4 week MINI beginning January 18 at the New London Town Office Building

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Goethe and the Romantic Age of German Literature / Tony Parra
8 weeks beginning January 18 at the New London Town Office Building

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Reading the Bible Again for the First Time with Marcus Borg / Charlotte Spencer
8 weeks beginning January 18 at the Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room

**FRIDAYS**
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. In Search of Reality / Dick Little
6 weeks beginning January 19 at the New London Town Office Building

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Plato’s Dialogues on Love: An Introduction to Western Philosophy / Michael Panebianco
8 weeks beginning January 19 at the New London Town Office Building

Facilities will accommodate handicapped participants

Information: (603) 526-3690

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Participants in this course will examine a group of operas that are each unique in some way. Some are sui generis, some are a single example of a composer's work in this genre and some had a unique influence in the development of opera.

These operas include *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Fidelio*, *Les Troyens*, *Carmen*, *Les Contes d'Hoffman*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Pelleas et Melisande*, *Boris Godunov*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Falstaff*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Turandot*, *Elektra* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

There will be a list of recommended readings.

Ron Luchsinger is director of productions for Opera North in Lebanon, New Hampshire. In addition, he travels in the United States directing for a large number of professional and academic opera companies most recently in Eugene, Oregon; Anchorage, Alaska; and Abilene, Texas. Recent productions for Opera North were *Il Trovatore* and *Albert Herring*. Ron has served as discussion leader for a course on Wagner and Bayreuth at ILEAD (Institute of Lifelong Learning at Dartmouth) and "Aspects of Verdi" for Adventures in Learning.
Abigail Adams: Her Life and Times

Who was Abigail Adams and why are we still interested in her almost 200 years after her death? Was she a Madonna, a feminist, a politician or a shrew? Her many biographies have painted her in each of these ways as well as many more.

Much is known about Adams because of the thousands of letters she wrote to family and friends that included the social history and politics of her time. Her significant writing life is seen as both literature and journalism.

In this course, the many roles of Abigail Adams will be examined—matriarch of a large important family, breadwinner of the family, patriotic citizen, First Lady and wife of President John Adams, mother of John Quincy Adams (and four other children), and devoted friend of Thomas Jefferson and of her neighbors in Quincy, Massachusetts.

A combination of lecture, discussion and the documentary video “John and Abigail Adams” from the PBS American Experience Series will be used. Participants are strongly encouraged to read any biography of Abigail Adams. There are many from which to choose.

Joanna received her undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont, a master's degree in sociology from Dartmouth College and an Ed.D. from UMass Amherst. She directed the Tucker Foundation off-campus internship program at Dartmouth and then moved into the field of admissions at several institutions including Wheaton and Babson Colleges in Massachusetts. Joanna was the dean of admissions at Colby-Sawyer College from 1988 to 1995, and most recently was the New England admission director for Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. At all of these institutions, she taught at least one course a year. In retrospect, she wishes she had majored in American studies which is where her interests lie now.
Abraham Lincoln and the Politics of His Time

Study Group Leader: Millard Hunter
Location: New London Town Office Building
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
6 weeks beginning January 16, 2007

The growth of the slavery issue was the overriding political subject of the 19th century in the United States. Participants in this course will examine that issue as well as the development of the Republican Party, the emergence of Lincoln as a principal player, his eventual nomination as its presidential candidate and his election in 1860.

Reading and discussion will continue with the formation of the Lincoln administration, his handling of the emancipation issue, and his conduct of the Civil War as an active commander in chief. If time allows, there will be an overview of the Reconstruction along with some speculation of what might have been if Lincoln had lived longer.

Suggested reading is Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Millard Hunter

Millard is a graduate in chemistry from Union College. He spent his career in a variety of sales, marketing and management roles with the International Nickel Company. Since his retirement, he has indulged in his longtime interest in the Civil War by attending seminars and battlefield tours and by extensive reading. Millard has previously taught courses about the Civil War with Julien LeBourgeois for Adventures in Learning.
The complex history of Central America dates back to some important ancient civilizations. The area, located on what geologists call the “Ring of Fire,” has been troubled by natural disasters from volcanoes and earthquakes as well as human conflicts.

Following Columbus's discovery, the area became an early center for European colonization. Ever since the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors, Central America has been troubled by the exploitation of foreign powers. These troubles are compounded by the area's location in a path between the two Americas and the two oceans.

First we will look at the Maya Kingdoms that existed before the arrival of the Spanish, then the contemporary history that begins with the subjugation of the native people and expropriation of land by the Spanish monarchy. Separation from the Spanish Empire was followed with rule by the Creole aristocracy. Other foreign powers became increasingly involved in the area through their own colonies and their involvement in business ventures. The United States has played a major role in the tumultuous history of changing governments in the region, which have ranged from democracies to military dictatorships.

The text for this course is *The History of Central America* by Thomas L. Pearcy, Greenwood Press.

Charlie received a B.A. from Wesleyan University and an M.B.A from New York University with majors in history and economics. He worked first in credit and banking, then for many years in the forest products industry before becoming president of the National Food Processors Association. That organization represented the industry in Washington, D.C., and conducted scientific studies in its three research laboratories. Since retiring to the Sunapee area, he has given several adult courses on different aspects of history and has served as president of Adventures in Learning.
The Industrial Revolution in Britain and the United States

Aspects of the Industrial Revolution in both Britain and the United States will be explored in eight lectures.

**Introduction to the Industrial Revolution, January 16**
In the introductory lecture, participants will take part in determining the factors that would allow Britain to become the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and will see a film with that focus. While teaching advanced placement European history in Greenwich, Connecticut, Julie attended a National Endowment for the Humanities seminar entitled “Interpretations of the Industrial Revolution” at the University of Nottingham in England.

**Key Industries of the English Industrial Revolution, January 23**
The spinning jenny and the steam engine, the bone china teacup and world’s first cast iron bridge are all symbols of the industries that Julie Machen will explore in this lecture.

**The Scottish and Regional Industrial Revolution, January 30**
From the coalfields of South Wales to the metallurgy of the Midlands, and from the inventions of Scottish entrepreneurs to the specialized cottage industries in England, regional skills and resources had a profound impact on why the Industrial Revolution took hold in Britain before spreading throughout Western Europe and North America. Morris has a deep and abiding curiosity about and fascination for the history of his native England.

**The Wesleyan Movement and the Crystal Palace Exhibition, February 6**
The mills of Manchester, England, made many people rich, but at the cost of the mill workers who were displaced from the countryside. Two responses to this new world were the Methodist movement that translated faith into social action to assist the poor and evangelize the world, and the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851, the first international trade fair. Chuck is professor emeritus of religion at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.
Development of Trusts and Congressional Reaction, February 13

One consequence of the Industrial Revolution was the emergence of monopolies in major industries. Of the many trusts that were formed, two of the most important were US Steel and Standard Oil. Their development and the federal legislative response through the Sherman Act of 1890 will be covered. Dick has taught law-related courses for Adventures in Learning and ILEAD (Institute of Lifelong Education at Dartmouth).

Urban Upheaval and Social/Religious Problems, February 20

Life in 19th century America was changed by immigration, urbanization and industrialization. As more people crowded into cities to work in factories, social ills increased prompting religious groups to respond. The Roman Catholic Church and Jewish organizations arose in Protestant America to serve the needs of their people.

Transportation and Manufacturing, February 27

The last 35 years of the 19th century saw an explosion of economic development in the United States. Transportation progressed from rivers and canals to a continental railroad system. Mineral resources were developed and converted into manufactured goods based on new technologies and advancements in engineering and science, and the country was transformed into an industrial society. Dick Cogswell is a retired CPA with a keen interest in history.

A Summary, March 6

David Pook, who teaches European intellectual history at St. Paul’s School, will present a summary of both the British and American industrial revolutions, using the Japanese industrialization at the end of the 19th century as a counterpoint to highlight similarities and differences, as well as looking back and ahead to the artistic and social critiques of industrialization over time.
The 50 years following Commodore Matthew Perry’s opening the doors of trade with Japan in 1854 saw dramatic changes in a country that had been closed to the world for over 200 years. Westerners, including many Americans, played an important role in that change. In just two generations, Japan was transformed from a mysterious isolated country into a major economic and military world power whose artistic culture had important influences on the West.

Participants in this course will explore the dynamics and results of this seminal period that ends with the 1905 defeat of Russia in the Russo-Japanese War, a period that set the foundations for the Japan we know (or don’t know) today.

We will start with a brief look at the 6th and 12th centuries when Japan enthusiastically embraced a “superior” foreign culture, in both cases Chinese, and the important influence of the Dutch who, during the years of isolation, were the only Westerners allowed into Japan with one trading ship a year.

The main focus of the course will be on the post-Perry years—the Meiji Restoration, the influx of Westerners as visitors, advisors and residents, and the radical shift in the Western view of its Eastern neighbor. Special attention will be given to individual Americans, many from New England, who were instrumental in helping to shape the new Japan and the Western image of this island nation.

Jim Bowditch

Jim received a B.A. in English and humanities from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in American studies from Harvard. He taught at Ripon College in Wisconsin for eight years and then became head of Francis W. Parker High School in Chicago, Illinois. Between 1947 and 2000, he worked abroad as headmaster of America Overseas School of Rome, the ACAT School of Turin, Italy; the International School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and as professor of English and history at John Cabot University in Rome. Now retired, he is the author of four published books (poetry, essays and a novel) and eight unpublished novels.
The Lake Sunapee Watershed: A Delicate Balance

A Mini Course

Lake Sunapee was formed when the last ice age retreated. Ever since people first settled in the Lake Sunapee area, the lake and its watershed have been affected with long-term consequences for local water resources. What is a watershed, and how does it relate to the health of water resources? What do we know about the Lake Sunapee watershed, the local land area and how it has changed over the years?

This mini course will offer insight into watershed fundamentals and apply them to Lake Sunapee and the surrounding area with a combination of lecture and group discussion. Subjects covered will be the area's watershed history, local watersheds and techniques and technologies of watershed assessment and recovery.

Lake Sunapee data will be used to illustrate the cause and effect of land abuse, the resulting water quality and effects on water habitat.

Understanding the relationship between watersheds and water resources can assist communities in regional land-use planning. Participants will discuss how watershed understanding can apply to land use and public policy.

June, a native of New Hampshire, is executive director of Lake Sunapee Protective Association. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, and an M.B.A. from Northeastern University. After working for Polaroid and Abbott Labs for over 35 years and much travel overseas, she retired and with her husband Peter started Ascend Partners, a consulting group.

Robert (Woody), a native of Pennsylvania, is associate executive director of Lake Sunapee Protective Association and a member of the Peterborough Conservation Commission. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in natural resource management from Antioch College and is a North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) certified lake manager. He lives in Peterborough, New Hampshire, with his wife Lulu.
Dialogues with Portraits

Study Group Leader: Ellen Robertson
Location: New London Town Office Building

Thursdays 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
4 weeks beginning January 18, 2007

A Mini Course

Working with originals and reproductions, the art of portraiture will be explored through its varied aspects.

From ancient times to the present, there has been both social and historic importance attached to conveying the human image.

We will discuss influences on the artist and the subject and address the question of what a self-portrait reveals or does not reveal about the artist. Comparisons of famous subjects, each painted by different artists, will show how their portrayals may reflect more than stylistic variations.

We will also examine how our life experiences affect our perception of the works of art being discussed.

Ellen Robertson

Ellen has a B.A. from Wheaton College and an M.A. in primary education from St. Andrews University, Scotland. She spent most of her teaching career introducing elementary school students to art appreciation. Living in the Washington, D.C., area, Ellen volunteered for eight years as a docent at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Retired, with her husband George in New London, New Hampshire, she now volunteers in a local elementary school. Working with 4th and 5th graders, she helps them to see a connection between their curriculum and the world of art, as well as how to look at paintings or sculptures.
Goethe and the Romantic Age of German Literature

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-1832) had an immense impact on the world literary scene. His prodigious collected works of lyric poetry, drama, prose and epic verse place him on a par with Virgil, Dante and Milton in the annals of world literature.

The focus of this course will be on reading his most famous work, Faust, an epic poem about man’s struggle to gain self-knowledge.

Home reading assignments will be followed by reading selected passages aloud in class and discussing the drama and the rich themes that are encountered.

If time permits, selected works of Schiller, Novalis, Heine and other major authors of the Romantic Age will be sampled.


Tony Parra

Tony retired to the Upper Valley after a 40-year career in the telephone industry. He has an M.B.A. from Syracuse University and a B.A. from Manhattan College where he majored in German, Italian and Spanish. He has happily returned to his liberal arts roots and has led courses at ILEAD (Institute of Lifelong Education at Dartmouth) and Adventures in Learning on Dante’s Divine Comedy and great authors of the Italian Renaissance. He has been chair of ILEAD’s Curriculum Committee and is now a member of the Adventures in Learning Curriculum Committee and Board of Directors. Tony and his wife live in Grantham, New Hampshire.
Reading the Bible Again for the First Time  
with Marcus Borg

Study Group Leader: Charlotte Spencer  
Location: Lake Sunapee Bank Community Room  
Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
8 weeks beginning January 18, 2007

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, in a discussion with his neighbor, the poet William Wordsworth, coined a phrase that has been used in various contexts ever since, “... that willing suspension of disbelief for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith.” Is it possible for a mature, faithful modern reader to take our Bible seriously without suspension of disbelief? What does the Bible really say about history, science and truth? Does it matter?

Professor Marcus Borg knows it matters. It matters to each person who struggles for a meaningful ethical/spiritual life. It matters to each person who seeks to understand the “culture wars” of our contemporary experience.

Together we will study Reading the Bible Again for the First Time, by Marcus Borg, discussing the passages he cites from both the Hebrew Bible and The New Testament, and doing the best we can to form our own authentic approach to the scriptures.

This will be a reading and discussion course. The text will be available at Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London.

Charlotte was born and reared in New Hampshire, attended Miss Porter’s School in Farmington, Connecticut, and graduated from Smith College. She is married, the mother of four, and the grandmother of five. Twenty-four years after college, she graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church. She served churches in Erie County, Pennsylvania, and Richmond, Virginia, before retiring to New London with her husband. A lover of the English novel since her girlhood, Charlotte rereads her favorites regularly. Among them, Jane Austen’s peerless six head the list.
In Search of Reality

Dick Little
Study Group Leader: Dick Little
Fridays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: New London Town Office Building
6 weeks beginning January 19, 2007

Long before people were given labels such as philosopher, scientist and theologian, the cave painters of Lascaux left the first known record of human thought. With those crude drawings, made 15,000 years ago, began the body of knowledge about the universe and everything in it that continues to grow exponentially today.

Scientists now believe that they can and will develop a Theory of Everything, a unifying explanation of the building blocks of nature—space, time, matter and energy. What are these building blocks? Where did they come from? Why is there a universe anyway?

And what about the concept of an all-powerful, all-knowing designer/creator God? Some believe we will eventually take that off the table, others believe we already have and still others believe we never will.

However great an accomplishment, our body of knowledge is built on processes and properties of the mind such as perception, intuition, imagination and logic. Are these infallible? Might reality be wholly in the mind of the observer?

Participants in this course will explore historical and current thinking about these questions and form their own conclusions about reality.

Dick graduated from Bowdoin College with a degree in mathematics and physics. After two years in the Army as a code breaker, he worked in the computer industry as a logic designer, systems programmer, systems architect and project manager for Sylvania, Honeywell and GTE. Dick has several patents to his credit, the most important of which is the process for telephone conference calls. Now fully retired, he is busy with volunteer work, golf, cabinetmaking and continuing studies in science and philosophy. Dick has been the study group leader for “A Mental Fitness Center Workout” and “Mathematics and the Wow Factor” for Adventures in Learning.
Western philosophy began in ancient Greece, and the writings of Plato are among the most well known from that era.

Through Plato's writings, modern readers can learn about the philosophy of Socrates, whom Plato wrote about, as well as Plato's own philosophic contributions.

Participants in this course will read and examine Lysis, Symposium, Phaedrus and Alcibiades, which together constitute Plato's major writings on love. Not only will we learn about philosophy, but we will also have an opportunity to discuss how modern-day perceptions about love differ and remain the same as those from over 2,000 years ago.

Required reading will be Plato on Love, edited by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company, 2006, which will be available for purchase at Morgan Hill Bookstore in New London.

Michael was born and raised in New York, and moved to New Hampshire with his New Hampshire-native wife and son. He received his degree in philosophy from LeMoyne College in 1992, his law degree from Hostra University School of Law in 1995 and his master's in tax law from Georgetown University Law Center in 2000. He is associated with the New London and Concord, New Hampshire, offices of Sulloway & Hollis, PLLC.
### Registration Form - Winter 2007 -

Please check if you are a first time member.

Prefix:  Name: ___________________________ Nickname: ____________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________________________

Town, State, Zipcode: ____________________________________________________

Telephone: ___________________________ E-mail: ____________________________

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Class Name</th>
<th>Day and Time</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Cost of first choice(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>One-of-a-Kind Operas</td>
<td>Mon., 1:30-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Abigail Adams</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>Tues., 9:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>Tues., 9:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Industrial Revolution</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Impact of West on Japan</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Lake Sunapee Watershed</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Dialogues with Portraits</td>
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<td>Goethe</td>
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<td>10.</td>
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<td>$35</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>In Search of Reality</td>
<td>Fri., 9:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Plato</td>
<td>Fri., 1:30-3:30 p.m.</td>
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Add annual membership dues if you have not already paid for the July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 year.

$40

**Total**

Please make checks payable to Colby-Sawyer College.

Registration forms for any courses that are oversubscribed as of November 7 will go into a lottery. Remaining course assignments will be made by the date registration forms are received.

**This form must be returned no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, November 24, 2006 to:**

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

**Note:** Each member should send a separate registration form.

If you have any questions, please call Janet St. Laurent at 526-3690.

Information: (603) 526-3690