Study Leader Profile

Ken Nielsen: Medical Marijuana

Ken has been a participant in AIL history, science and government courses and enjoyed the lively discussions and each presenters’ expertise. Wanting to pay it forward, he decided to offer his own AIL course on the topic he hopes will be thought-provoking, complex and timely for New Hampshire citizens, the use of medical marijuana.

His background as a high school social studies teacher and then as a lawyer reflects his concerns about government, social constructs and justice. The recent decision of the New Hampshire legislature to allow the use of medical marijuana seems like a subject handpicked to coincide with Ken’s interests.

As a method of tackling such a complex subject, Ken will have participants in his minicourse first look at the history of marijuana use and the changing

Study Leader Profile

Joe Fanning: Screwball Comedies: Twisted Laughs with Rolling Sarcastic Wit

Joe’s passion for movies began as a young boy growing up in New Jersey watching a television program called “Million Dollar Movies” with his dad and grandpa, who lived next door. Showing movies on television began in the late 1940s as the film industry experienced a deep decline in attendance resulting from the rise of television. Thus, for extra revenue, the studios sold the older movie rights to television stations. In 1958 WOR in New York started showing “Million Dollar Movies” two to four times a day. On many an evening, weekend or holiday, Joe would watch old movies, possibly several times a week, with a “new” movie choice being shown each Sunday.

One summer evening at age 16, while switching the dials, Joe came across a silent film being broadcast on NET, New York’s education channel. He became

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Use Storefront to register and enter to win a free AIL course!

Click HERE for listing of Colby-Sawyer College events that are open to the public this Fall.
Some of New England’s Outstanding Writers: Winners of the Esteemed Sarah Josepha Hale Award

The work of distinguished New England writers who have won the Sarah Josepha Hale Award will be the focus of an Adventures in Learning course in the fall. This award, presented annually since 1956 by the trustees of the Richards Free Library in Newport, N.H., is awarded in recognition of a distinguished body of work in the field of literature and letters. Led by study group leader Nancy Marashio, the class will choose and read from selections of different medalists of the Sarah Josepha Hale Award. The first award recipient was Robert Frost. The most recent was just chosen in June by the Hale Award board of judges which is chaired by Nancy. Bill McKibben, author and environmentalist, has written many books and articles of significance and is the 2014 Hale Award winner. This year’s ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 4, and Nancy is encouraging her course members to attend.

The Hale Award’s range of work is vast, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, science, biography, history, journalism, political science and more. The writing itself, of course, must be judged outstanding and the medalist must come in person to the Richards Free Library in Newport, N.H., to receive the award, read from his or her work (sometimes not yet published) and give a talk. John F. Kennedy was selected in 1963 for his book Profiles in Courage but could not attend the ceremony because of a previous engagement in Dallas and did not receive the medal.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a Newport native, was a New England novelist, writer and influential editor. Her first book, Northwood, an anti-slavery novel, was published in the early 1800s and preceded Uncle Tom’s Cabin by several years. For 50 years she was the editor of the popular Godey's Lady's Book. Also during that busy time she was the mother of four children. Much of her education came from her brother who was a student at Dartmouth College. He would come home and share with Sarah what he had been taught. She is probably best known as the author of the children’s rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” part of a children’s poetry collection. She was involved in a number of causes, one being fundraising for the Richards Free Library, and is famously remembered for her lobbying efforts to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

After a few minutes of talking with Nancy Marashio about books and literature, one quickly recognizes her love and admiration for the well-written word. Nancy grew up in Claremont and graduated from Stevens High School in 1960. She went on to Keene State College where she majored in English and then earned a masters degree in literature from Boston College. She received a Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) from Wesleyan University.

As much as Nancy loves reading good literature (and she is an avid reader), she also enjoys the challenges of the classroom. She taught English in middle schools and high schools and for almost thirty years in community colleges. She especially enjoys teaching about writers and writing. Her AIL course will fittingly be held in the Sarah Josepha Hale Room at the Richards Free Library, surrounded by pictures and posters of past medalists.

To learn more about the Sarah Josepha Hale Award, please click HERE.  

~Heidi Beckwith

Inclement Weather Policy
Adventures in Learning follows the Kearsarge Regional School District policy on weather closure. For information on the district’s cancellations log onto www.keaarsarge.org or check WMUR TV channel 9. If a question remains about a course cancellation, please call your study group leader.
Registration is now open for the fall term. Most courses begin the week of September 15. View the complete fall catalog online with full course descriptions, including start dates and times, at [www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/adventures/courses.html). On this same webpage you can register for courses and pay your annual 2014–2015 membership dues if you have not already done so. The course registration deadline is noon on Friday, August 15. Register now to ensure a place in the course(s) of your choice. If you register online, your name will be entered in a drawing for a chance to win a free AIL course to be used within one year.

- **“That Damn Cowboy in the White House”: A Look at the Life of Theodore Roosevelt** with Gene Lariviere
  “I rose like a rocket!” is how Theodore Roosevelt described his ascent in the political world. A large part of the propulsion for that “rocket” came from TR’s creation of his image. How much of that was reality and how much was a very clever public relations presentation by this hyperactive ball of energy?

- **Screwball Comedies: Twisted Laughs with Rolling Sarcastic Wit** with Joe Fanning
  Social situations, mistaken identities and risqué elements all serve to make screwball comedies a laugh a minute. Though the movie plots often were really much ado about nothing, they generated large profits for the studios and influenced culture long after their premieres. View some classics and enter into lively discussion after the showing of each film.

- **Art of the WPA: A New Deal for Art and Artists** with Mike Moss
  This course covers the wide range of art produced during the Great Depression under Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal support for artists. The focus will be on the mural projects that gave work to artists throughout the country during the 1930s. This plan to support artists encouraged a new spirit among artists and gave birth to the wide acceptance of mural art in the United States.

- **Queen Victoria’s Last War** with Dwight Wilder
  The Second Boer War of 1899–1902 pitted Britain against the independent republics of the Transvaal and Orange Free State. At stake was possession of southern Africa’s immense mineral wealth, especially in gold and diamonds. The fascinating cast of characters involved in the conflict included Winston Churchill, Mohandas Gandhi, author Arthur Conan Doyle, Boy Scouts founder Robert Baden-Powell and Adelbert Hay, the 22-year-old son of Secretary of State John Hay, a summer resident of Newbury.

- **What if?—Alternate Histories** with Les Norman
  If historical events had turned out differently, how might the world of today have been changed? Some authors have written alternate histories, usually about major historical events, and the changes that might have resulted had they turned out otherwise. The course will look at two such events, the Second World War and the Protestant Reformation, and at a variety of ways in which an alternate history, and an alternate present stemming from each of them, have been created by imaginative authors.

- **Christianity at the Crossroads: The Reformation** with moderators Morris Edwards and Julie Machen
  This course is Part II of the Julien LeBourgeois Memorial Lecture Trilogy—Seeing the World Anew: The Renaissance, the Reformation and the Enlightenment.
  The Reformation that swept across Western Christendom during the 1500s transformed thought, culture and society and changed the course of history. In exploring these epochal events, speakers will delve into the tumultuous and high-stakes religious and political intrigue that would shatter the unity of the Latin Church and mold the modern world.

- **Masters of 20th Century Architecture** with Harte Crow
  After a brief review of architecture in the United States from the 17th to the early 20th century, this course will examine the careers and the work of some of the most influential architects of the last century: Alvar Aalto, Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius, Mies van der Rohe, Eliel and Eero Saarinen and Louis Kahn.

- **World War I: An Unanticipated Disaster** with Tom Simon
  The course will cover multiple aspects of the war—its causes, warfare tactics, battles during the war and post-war effects. It will also examine whether WWI and WWII were in fact two separate wars or one continuous “on again/off again” war.

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Preview of 2014 Fall Courses (continued from page 3)

• **Medical Marijuana** with Ken Nielsen
  Over many centuries marijuana has been considered both menace and medicine. The unique dual and contradictory characteristics of this remarkable plant will be examined in a series of four lectures and discussions.

• **American Impressionism** with Ellen Robertson
  American artists studying in Paris during the late 19th century discovered French Impressionism. Although influenced by this new approach to painting, they developed a subtle difference to this style. The Civil War, Luminism and photography all impacted the approach Americans had to art.

• **Hale Award Writers** with Nancy Marashio
  Since 1956 outstanding New England writers have traveled to Newport to receive the annual literary award named for Newport's Sarah Josepha Hale. The bronze medal symbolizing the honor has been awarded to fiction and non-fiction writers, poets, journalists, biographers, playwrights to name a few. This award was initiated in 1956 as a fundraiser for the Free Richards Library in Newport, and Robert Frost was the first to receive the medal. The course will focus on selected readings from award medalists.

• **Mastering Your Camera for Outstanding Photography** with Larry Harper
  This is a hands-on course designed for the beginner (including someone with a new camera) or early intermediate photographer. The course will provide tangible step-by-step coaching on how to master your own camera, get the very best pictures and have fun.

• **Figure Drawing** with Chris Bowditch
  This popular course will focus on basic figure drawing techniques in a variety of media – pencil, charcoal, pastel and Conte crayon. It is designed both for beginners and those who want to continue building on their skills.

Joe Fanning (continued from page 1)

so interested in the silent film style that he bought his first book on movies, *Classics of Silent Movies*, and began his predominantly self-education of the pre-talkie format. To that end, he started visiting MOMA, the Museum of Modern Art, which had the largest and oldest collection of silent movies in the country. There he met Blanche Sweet, “the First Movie Star,” and developed a friendship with the retired actress. She educated him on the fact that the old movies, that he had told her were “dead,” were really still deeply alive. Later his association with MOMA became professional as he organized various film festivals, such as the 1993 Robert Harron Birth Centennial series.

Meanwhile, following his college geology degree, Joe became a New Jersey high school science teacher. A few years later he started a course called “Information Sciences,” which dealt with scientific principles that led to and brought forth media, i.e., light + chemistry = photographs. This led him to pursue his master’s in media technology and become a high school librarian. Thus the former “rock guy” became a full-time librarian until his retirement two years ago. How he found and settled here in retirement is just like a “screwball” script, when a traffic detour on the way to check out real estate in Vermont brought him to New London.

When asked which contemporary film is his favorite, Joe chose two: the original “Star Wars, A New Hope” and the lesser known 1969 film “Loves of Isadora” with Vanessa Redgrave.

Joe’s love of movies is boundless. His course this past winter was on the great films of 1933 that included “King Kong.” For his new AIL course this fall, Joe chose “screwball comedies” for their wit, satire, good humor and great actors including Jack Lemmon, Cary Grant, Marilyn Monroe and Rosalind Russell.

When you take this course, all you will have to do is bring the popcorn and sit back for lots of laughs!

~Deb Rucci

We have a winner!

Deb Reed won the summer raffle for a free AIL course. When told that she had won, she exclaimed, “You’re kidding…what fun…that’s great!”

The raffle was open to all summer course participants who registered online. Fifty percent of those who registered for courses this summer did so online. AIL is shooting to surpass that number in the fall.

Don’t be left out. You might be the next lucky winner of a free AIL course!
Christianity at the Crossroads: The Reformation

The Reformations that swept across Western Christendom during the 1500s would transform thought, culture and society and change the course of history. This fall, Adventures in Learning will explore this high-stakes religious conflict as part of its lecture series trilogy on the development of Western Civilization.

Entitled “Seeing the World Anew: the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Enlightenment,” the trilogy is dedicated to the memory of Vice Admiral (ret.) Julien J. LeBourgeois, a founder of AIL and a driving force during its critical early years, who passed away in September, 2012.

One of the program innovations Julien championed was the lecture series featuring different speakers each week, so it was thought appropriate to honor him with a lecture series trilogy linked thematically by subject matter that was close to his heart. The trilogy began last fall with a lecture series on the Italian Renaissance and will conclude in the fall of 2015 with a series on the Enlightenment.

Julie Machen will lead off this fall’s series on the Reformation by exploring the backstory on why the German monk, Martin Luther, was successful in bringing about religious reform when so many others had failed in their attempts to do so.

Colby-Sawyer professor Paul Robertson will continue the narrative by delving into Luther’s life and unveiling the complicated and ambitious man at the center of the Reformation and the decisions and relationships that defined him. Fellow professor Randy Hanson will then detail the Catholic response to the religious changes sparked by Luther, drawing a distinction between the reactionary “Counter-Reformation” and the creative and constructive “Catholic Reformation.”

For my discussion of the English Reformation I will assume the persona of two principal players, Thomas Cranmer and William Cecil, to give an “insider” account of the people and events that shaped the action and the eventual outcome.

Covering the cultural aspects of the Reformation, David Almond will explore Luther’s enormous contribution to Protestant hymnody, which is less well-known than his theological legacy, but equally important, while Jack Barrett will survey the eye-popping buildings of the Baroque era, which were dramatic, illusionistic and often wildly colorful. Jack will follow the movement as it germinates in Rome, flowers in Bavaria and Austria and mutates into Rococo.

Finally Colby-Sawyer President Tom Galligan will trace how the Reformation played out in the American colonies as Catholic and Protestant countries vied for influence here.

It all starts at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, September 17, in Clements Hall, in the Curtis L. Ivey Science Center at Colby-Sawyer College. We hope Julien would have approved.

~Morris Edwards

Ken Nielsen (continued from page 1)

perceptions of marijuana worldwide. Then, since the course’s primary focus is medical marijuana use, the course will look at the pharmacology of the substances found in marijuana, along with a review of some major studies concerning marijuana use. Finally the focus will turn to New Hampshire’s recent statutes and regulations developed for the therapeutic use of marijuana.

Ken hopes the participants in the minicourse will leave with a deeper appreciation of the complexities surrounding the use of medical marijuana as they examine court cases from the 1940s to the present. Tax codes, immigration laws and racism all have connections to marijuana use and attempts to regulate it. No doubt lively discussions will punctuate each session with a topic so wrought with controversy. Although the New Hampshire legislature hasn’t followed those of Colorado and Washington in legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, those states have begun an experiment whose merits many others will debate and examine as changes in attitudes toward the use of marijuana develop.

Ken was born in Denmark, but his family moved to the Midwest when he was a child. From there, they moved to New York in the 50s, where Ken eventually worked as a high school social studies teacher. In 1980 he and his wife, Judy, and their children relocated to New Hampshire so that Ken could attend law school in Concord. His two children and three grandchildren live in Minnesota. He and Judy now live in Newbury, where Ken enjoys golfing during his spare time. Still working as an attorney, Ken recently represented the non-profit that developed the soon-to-open Newbury Elderly Housing project.

Join Ken this fall for four weeks of examining this controversial issue. Whatever your view on the topic, you’ll leave each session with so much to ponder as New Hampshire soon embarks on its own experiment allowing the use of medical marijuana. ~Jen Mack
You touched a spark!—

A call went out to all AIL artists and art students inviting them to display their artwork at the 2014 annual meeting. Over 25 artists responded. The art exhibit opened one hour prior to the start of the annual meeting and remained open after the meeting to give everyone ample time to view all the exceptional artwork on display. The response to the exhibit was enthusiastic. One member commented, “We didn’t know we had so many talented artists.” Work on display ranged from burl bowls to acrylics, sketching, oils, photographs, watercolors, sculpture, pottery and mixed media.

All the artists expressed delight for this first AIL art exhibit and hoped that it would become an annual event. Thank you to all the artists. Keep on developing your skills and know that you touched a spark in everyone and encouraged creativity.

~Maureen Rosen

New Board Members for 2014–2015

Joining the AIL board for 2014–2015 are Deb Rucci, Les Norman and Sheldon Boege. Deb has been a member of the Public Relations Committee for two years and presently serves as co-chair with Joyce Kellogg. She and her husband, Peter, moved to North Sutton in 2009 from Bethesda, Md. During the winter months, both are keen volunteers in the acclaimed Mt. Sunapee handicapped ski program (NEHSA). Deb graduated from Williams College with a degree in art history and served as a docent for 25 years at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Les Norman and Sheldon Boege are returning members to the board. Les is the recently appointed Curriculum Committee chair. A native of England, he graduated from Oxford and worked in the computer application field in both the United Kingdom and the United States. An American citizen since 1969, Les took early retirement from Digital Equipment Corporation in 1990 and completed his theological studies at the Andover Newton Theological School. From 1992 to 2002 Les served as an ordained pastor at the Sanbornton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Currently a New London resident, Les has served on the town’s Conservation Committee and is a Distinguished Study Group Leader having led more than ten courses for AIL.

After a brief hiatus, Sheldon Boege is back handling AIL facilities/AV equipment and classroom assignments. Sheldon graduated from Stanford University and The Fletcher School at Tufts University, specializing in international relations and Japanese politics. Before retiring in 1996, Sheldon worked 23 years in Asia and the Middle East in the banking profession for both Citibank and ABN-Amro. He and his wife, Betsy, have lived in the New London area since 2001. Sheldon is a Distinguished Study Group Leader, keen tennis player and frustrated golfer.

~Betsy Boege
Adventures in Learning Happenings

Participants in Becky Rylander’s summer course, “The History of the Town of Sunapee,” listen to the fascinating and varied history of the town of Sunapee from first settlement shortly before the Revolution to the late 20th century. Becky laced her lectures with local lore, maps and photographs.

Golf Croquet on the lawn at Colby-Sawyer College

All course participants and study leader, Sharon Kenrick, enjoying All’s summer course “Golf Croquet: America’s Most Sophisticated Outdoor Sport” on a gorgeous day in New London. Participants learn the correct way to hold the mallet, address the ball, strike the ball, match strategies, course etiquette and more.
Looking Back—
The Adventures in Learning Story

In the first AIL newsletter, Update, published in the fall of 2000, Priscilla Ohler recounted the story behind AIL and the people who made it happen. Here is an excerpt from her article:

“Several people in our communities felt that we could have an ILEAD–like group here in the area surrounded by our mountains, Kearsarge and Sunapee. Under the guidance of Hilary Cleveland, Sue and Dick Eaton, Charles Carey and Julien LeBourgeois, a core organizing committee was formed. They in turn recruited Mary and Allan Doyle, Deniza and Dick Martin, Jean and Peter McKee, Carolyn and Dick Sweetland, Bob and Susie Gray, Sheila Henry and Priscilla LeBourgeois. The idea was proposed to Colby-Sawyer College President Anne Ponder, who sought and received the support of the Colby-Sawyer College Board of Trustees. We are grateful to all of them for their commitment to this good cause. In particular, we thank Julien LeBourgeois, our past chair; Charles Carey, our new president; and former Curriculum Committee chair Mary Doyle…”

In future Horizon Extra issues we will continue to look back and remember people, places and events in AIL’s brief but dynamic history.

~Betsy Boege