



MIDCOAST SENIOR COLLEGE

presents

Winter Wisdom 2015

FREE & OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Room

12:15 - 1:45 PM

...because learning never ends

January 7th. John Tercyak, Music in Our Memory A concert of artfully performed folk music, and “oldies but goodies,” we all remember and would love to hear again. Well-known guitarist and singer Tercyak performs 60’s and 70’s folk songs and popular music. The audience will be able to request their favorites from a list of 700+ selections handed out prior to the event. **John Tercyak**, classically trained at Hartt School of Music in guitar, has performed for more than 30 years, and widely known throughout New England for his accomplished performances of traditional folk music, children songs, and original pieces.

January 14th. Semmelweis, A Prophet without Honor Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis, a lower class, blunt, ill mannered Hungarian physician who discovered in the 1850’s that women giving birth were three times more likely to die in a doctor’s care than in maternity wards run by mid-wives. His theory was that hand washing greatly reduced infant mortality. Germ theory was not yet recognized by doctors; he was ostracized by the medical community. This talk will contrast Semmelweis with the more courtly and socially connected Joseph Lister who proved 20 years later that the Semmelweis theory was correct. **Dr. Richard S. Neiman** is Emeritus Professor of Pathology and Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine.

January 21st. Experiences of a Former Employee at NASA Space Program A description of a typical space shuttle flight from the vehicle preparation through launch, flight, entry and landing is presented including defining an astronaut’s experiences and activities throughout a mission, and an explanation of the support activity and daily operations at mission control. It concludes with an explanation of NASA’s positive benefit on society. **Ed Polewarczyk** joined the space shuttle program in 1974 as Rockwell International’s manager of resident materials at the Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies.

January 28th. Stealing Night Café This lecture reveals how Vincent Van Gogh’s famous painting *Night Café* ended up in a Moscow merchant’s home. It was stolen by Lenin in 1918, and languished in a Soviet museum until 1933. Stolen again by Stalin who then sold it to Stephen Clark, the Singer Sewing Machine heir and founder, Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Clark bequeathed the painting to Yale, his alma mater, in 1960. This is a wild story of art, money, espionage, and the law. **Dr. Robert C. Williams** (Wesleyan ‘60) received his Ph.D. in Russian history from Harvard University.

February 4th. The Mindfulness Revolution This talk will describe how living with awareness can transform our lives. Current scientific research indicates that mindfulness meditation can reduce stress and improve mental and physical health. What is it? Why is it so effective for health and emotional healing? How can reclaiming the present moment and living with awareness transform our lives? Elucidating its methods, benefits, and the meaning it can bring to our inner lives is **Ann Kimmage**, formerly Professor at SUNY in Plattsburg, NY, and who has taught literature, composition, and autobiographical writing.

February 11th. Ten Mysteries of Talking Walls Author Margy Burns Knight offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of her book *Talking Walls: Discover Your World*--an updated, revised edition explores global cultures through the universal lens of walls and the stories they tell. Walls discussed include: Great Wall of China; murals of Diego Rivera; Nelson Mandela’s prison walls; Holocaust memorial, Poland; Hadrian’s Wall, England; and Peace Lines, Belfast, No. Ireland. **Margy Burns Knight** (Bowdoin ’76) received the NEA’s Author-Illustrator Human & Civil Rights Award for *Talking Walls* and the 2001 Children’s Africana Book Award for the book *Africa is Not a Country*.

February 18th. Longfellow Days - Parlor Games, Photographs, Panoramas, and Tableaux In the 19th century, upper and middle class Americans had more free time than previous generations. This led to the creation of leisure activities that would improve their knowledge in science, music and art. A perspective on the cultural history of home amusement and playful pastimes in 19th century America is presented by **Libby Bischof** who did her undergraduate and graduate work at Boston College and is an Associate Professor of History and Chair, History and Political Science Department at USM specializing in Maine, American history, the history of photography.

Sponsored by



THE HIGHLANDS
A Lifestyle of Choice

30 Governor’s Way • Topsham, ME • 725-2650 • www.highlandsrc.com

FMI, call: (207) 725-4900 • midcoastseniorcollege.org
Midcoast Senior College • 10 Tibbetts Dr., Suite 210 • Brunswick, ME