



Winter Wisdom 2016
at Curtis Memorial Library
12:15 – 1:45 PM
Free and Open to the Public

January 6th. Castlebay - The Music and Poetry of Robert Burns

The poet Robert Burns (1759-1796) working in both the Scots language and in English, collected and wrote new lyrics for hundreds of traditional Scottish folk tunes. Among these are *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose*, *Comin' Through the Rye* and *Auld Lang Syne*. Burns short but colorful life has become the subject of both legend and scholarly documentaries. The duo **Julia Lane & Fred Gosbee** of **Castlebay** will present a lecture/performance of these romantic love songs interspersed with lively dance tunes as well as poems and anecdotes about Scotland's National Poet. **Castlebay** has been weaving together the musical heritage of New England and the Celtic lands since 1987. Members Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee have loved and researched traditional music for most of their lives and blend history, legend and experience into their personable performance style. Their concerts feature poignant ballads interspersed with joyous dance tunes played on Celtic harp, guitar, fiddle and tin whistle.

January 13th. A Protest Artist On Monhegan

This lecture and exhibit features Leonard Meiselman, a Maine protest artist, who will present an exhibition of his paintings, drawings and photos of Monhegan. He will speak about the Monhegan experience and how this has inspired numerous American artists and enriched their lives. Meiselman also devotes several paintings to the subject Monhegan's ecological crisis. **Leonard Meiselman**, is a graduate of Cooper Union, and City College of New York. He lived in Florence, Italy for 18 years and has taught at N.Y.U. and California State University. He teaches at Midcoast Senior College. His recent exhibition, in November 2014, at UMA was entitled *The Dilemma of Memory*. His work currently appears at Hebrew Union College Museum in New York.

January 20th. The Bodleian Library and Its Treasures: An Illustrated History

Founded in the 13th century, Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. The history of its great library, the Bodleian, carries us from medieval manuscript to digitized online collections. Its patrons and donors have included monarchs, scholars, statesmen, prime ministers, princes of the church, and captains of industry. Religious iconoclasm, civil and world wars, and economic depressions have threatened the Bodleian, but it has survived triumphant. It is crammed with treasures from a 1217 copy of the Magna Carta to JRR Tolkien's own dust jacket art for *The Hobbit*. This illustrated lecture is for all who love books and libraries. **Susan Beegel** holds a Ph.D. in English from Yale University. A 20 year resident of Nantucket Island, and now a resident of Phippsburg, Maine, she is a Research Associate of the Williams College-Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program. She is also Editor in Chief of *The Hemingway Review*.

January 27th. Pedaling from Amsterdam to Bruges: Bicycle Culture in the Low Countries

This illustrated lecture will talk about the delight and ease of riding in the Netherlands on a bicycle. Carolyn Bryant and her husband Donald Sarles discovered this when they visited a cousin who was living and working in Delft. Their experiences led them to undertaking a two-week bike-and-barge tour, during which they and six others pedaled from Amsterdam to Bruges, a distance of about 300 miles. Led by Dutch guides, the group covered 30 to 40 miles a day, with meals and sleeping accommodation on a barge. Carolyn will present an illustrated description of their trip, and will discuss aspects of bicycle culture in the Netherlands and Belgium. **Carolyn Bryant** has degrees in mathematics and musicology. She has worked as a mathematician and computer programmer for the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory for over 20 years. Her musicological experience includes research and publication projects for the Smithsonian Institution, the American Musical Instrument Society, and Oxford University Press, and most recently as a senior editor for revisions to *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*. Donald and Carolyn became full-time Maine residents in 2010, after a long period of summering on the Pemaquid Peninsula.

February 3rd. **David Jones and His Epic Prose Poem *In Parenthesis*.**

Perhaps the most imaginative writing in English to come out of the First World War was *In Parenthesis*, an epic prose poem which depicts the experiences of a British battalion before and during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Its author, David Jones (1895-1974), was a Londoner of Welsh background and a private soldier in the British Army. After the war, Jones became one of the leading modernist writers as well as an accomplished artist (engraving, drawing, watercolours) and poet. This talk will introduce the man and poet David Jones, will narrate his wartime experiences, describe the poem *In Parenthesis*, and suggest ways to approach this remarkable work.

Robert Bunselmeyer has taught at Yale, Fordham, and Villanova and has served as a university administrator at Yale (his doctoral alma mater) and at Columbia. Since his 2007 Senior College course on British soldier poets of World War I, Bob has been teaching Modern European History at Bates College.

February 10th. **Why Don't Submariners Get the Bends?**

This illustrated talk will describe medical practices on board submarines. Medical responsibilities associated with submarine service include monitoring radiation exposure, atmosphere control, psychological screening, and isolation from family. As well this talk will describe clinical treatment in an isolated and radio silent environment. Contrasts between submariners and divers will be explained in answering the question posed in the title of this presentation. New developments in underwater exit and re-entry from submarines and support of tethered swimmers will also be discussed. **Dr. Tony Belmont** graduated from Bowdoin College and received his M.D. degree from the University of Vermont, College of Medicine. He served twenty years as a medical officer in the US Navy where his assignments included submarine and diving duty, clinical responsibilities at Bethesda Naval Hospital, the White House, the US Embassy in London, and the US Capitol. Later he was Medical Director at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in New York City before relocating to Oklahoma where he was Chief Medical Director for Phillips Petroleum Company. He retired to Maine in 2000.

February 17th. **Longfellow Days - School Days**

Charles Dorn, Associate Professor of Education at Bowdoin College will help us imagine the educational settings, philosophies, and activities that would have been experienced by Longfellow's generation in the 19th century.

February 24th. *Snow Make-up*