

FRIDAY

- **Ballet Appreciation:**

The National Ballet of Canada Season

Enrich your experience of ballet in general and the National Ballet of Canada's season in particular, with insights into the choreography, design, and music. Deepen your appreciation of the technical aspects of dance by learning to recognize a different ballet step by name each week and understand its physical challenges. Included will be a tour of the National Ballet's studios with the opportunity to watch a rehearsal, learn how tutus and pointe shoes are made, and see how sets and costumes go from initial design to finished product.

Katherine Barber, "Canada's Word Lady," is a popular "Ballet Talk" presenter for The National Ballet of Canada and a highly knowledgeable balletomane.

She vivaciously communicates her love and knowledge of the art form while demystifying its sometimes intimidating aspects.

Dates: Oct. 14 – Nov. 18 (6 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 10:10 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Fee: \$45.00

Lecturer: Katherine Barber

- ***The Economist* Seminar**

What's better than reading *The Economist*, that well known and highly respected magazine? Joining this seminar group to discuss what you've read! Each week, we select from many extensive and well-researched topics one or two articles, written one week prior and identified in time for the class to read. As subscribers know, there is no limit to the subjects dealt with in *The Economist*; they range from world events and conflicts to the powerful figures in the news, from economics and fiscal policy to science and technology to culture and the arts—important issues and ideas that affect our world. A lively exchange of views is our goal!

Please Note: Class members will be able to subscribe to *The Economist* at a considerably reduced annual rate.

Lloyd Cadsby and **Jay Waterman** are both retired lawyers who have found there is LIFE after law by pursuing their interest in world events.

Limited to 30 participants

Dates: Oct. 7 – Nov. 25 (8 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 10:10 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

Fee: \$39.00

Moderators: Lloyd Cadsby and Jay Waterman

● Fall Birding in the Toronto Area

For the first week of this course, we will meet at the entrance to High Park, on Bloor Street just south of the High Park Subway station; a list of other meeting places, all accessible by TTC, will be provided at the first class. We will explore the city as we seek the best spots to observe our feathered friends. The moderator will share tips for using binoculars and bird books, and explain some of the techniques for bird identification. Walks are often on uneven ground, but the pace is leisurely. Wear sturdy footwear, dress for the weather (the course goes into December!) and come prepared to enjoy the outdoors. Doug Paton leads birding walks for the Toronto Field Naturalists and enjoys sharing his expertise and experience in this fascinating hobby with other LIFE members.

Limited to 40 participants

Dates: Sept. 30 – Dec. 2 (10 sessions)

Times: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fee: \$45.00

Moderator: Doug Paton

**Please note the starting time.*

● Five Operas Inspired by Shakespeare

NEW!

Macbeth, *Otello*, and *Falstaff*, by Giuseppe Verdi *Romeo and Juliette*, by Charles Gounod *Midsummer Night's Dream*, by Benjamin Britten The power of Shakespeare's characterizations and plots, and the richness of his language, even in translation, has attracted composers and librettists for centuries. Pre-eminent among composers is Verdi, the Italian counterpart to Shakespeare in the range and complexity of his creations. Among those attempting to set music to Shakespeare's original text, Benjamin Britten is the most successful. In the French operatic tradition, Gounod's version of *Romeo and Juliette* is outstanding. Shakespeare rules in any medium. We will view the complete operas on DVD (subtitled); if time permits, we will view different versions of the same opera.

Marcel Deurvorst will host the series while Eric Domville, U of T Professor Emeritus, a Shakespeare scholar, lecturer, broadcaster, and writer on opera, will introduce the series and each of the five operas.

Limited to 60 participants

Dates: Sept. 30 – Dec. 2 (10 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:55 noon

Fee: \$75.00 (includes surcharge for use of the Textile Museum auditorium)

Moderator: Marcel Deurvorst

Lecturer: Eric Domville

Location: Auditorium of the Textile Museum, 55 Centre Street, steps from the St. Patrick subway station.

**Please note the starting time.*

• The Paradox of Director Steven Spielberg

NEW!

He may be the world's most successful filmmaker (*Jaws*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*), but director Steven Spielberg has never received the respect he deserves, either dismissed as a shallow entertainer or simply taken for granted. But his influence, not just in Hollywood, is unparalleled. We'll look at the paradox of this exciting, visceral filmmaker, warts and all. He's successful, but is he an artist? We'll examine his early commercial movies – the superb TV movie *Duel* – and his groundbreaking science-fiction movies, such as *E.T.*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*, as well as his provocative, less commercial movies, such as *Schindler's List*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and *Munich*. We'll also look at his impact on both his contemporaries and up-and-comers, from *Star Wars*' George Lucas to *Star Trek*'s J.J. Abrams. At nearly 65, Steven Spielberg remains a potent force in an industry which marginalizes older directors. We'll explore why he matters so much.

Shlomo Schwartzberg has been an arts reporter, film critic, and programmer for 25 years. He is the current chair of the Toronto Jewish Film Society and is a regular contributor to the Critics at Large website (criticsatlarge.ca/)

Dates: Oct. 14 – Dec. 2 (8 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 12:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Fee: \$55.00

Lecturer: Shlomo Schwartzberg

• Reviewing the Reviews:

A Liberal Education via Book Reviews

NEW!

If you always turn to the book section of your newspaper and read the reviews, whether you've read the book or not, then this is the course for you. Well-written and authoritative reviews can take us far a-field—exploring ideas and issues, raising questions, eliciting opinions, and creating new interests. This course will do all that and more as we share our reactions to selected reviews of notable, recently published works. It will expand your “liberal education” by providing an intellectually stimulating arena for discussion and debating great ideas and thoughts. And perhaps create a burning desire to read some wonderful new books!

In ancient times Norm Forman studied and taught English literature. More recently he authored three books whose reviews were generally favourable! Currently he is a psychologist working towards benefiting families with school children who have exceptionalities. In this endeavour, he has reviewed countless documents, albeit not literary in scope!

Limited to 25 participants

Dates: Sept. 30 – Dec. 2 (10 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 12:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Fee: \$45.00

Moderator: Norm Forman

• Toronto Topics

Like all great cities, Toronto faces urban challenges. This course will focus on some of those issues, with presentations by a series of expert speakers. We'll look at Union Station, its history, importance, and revitalization. We'll move on to see how Regent Park is changing, and then tackle the problems of poverty and housing. We'll find out about urban agriculture, the growing of food in our back yards, and high rises. Transit in Toronto, its options and future, will be our next stop. Finally, we'll examine the existence of diversity in our institutions. Our speakers will be some of the top experts on Toronto's problems, such as Michael Shapcott on housing, well-known street nurse Cathy Crowe, and a transit advocate. Each class will include a presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session, and discussion.

Lester Brown is the president of a neighbourhood association and has sat on several stakeholder/working groups and committees concerned about development and revitalization. He has co-moderated a World Studies course, *Emerging Cities*, and moderated a course on *Toronto's Waterfront Development*.

Limited to 30 participants

Dates: Oct. 7 – Dec. 2 (9 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 12:10 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Fee: \$42.00

Moderator: Lester Brown

• Extraordinary Marriages: For Better, For Worse

NEW!

Famous marriages abound—just think of Antony and Cleopatra, Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn (among others!), Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Bill and Hillary Clinton. Why did they marry? What made these marriages work or end? We will look at some of the many reasons for getting married and some of the more unusual outcomes. We will touch on the history of marriage and speculate on the future. Our discussions will consider the marriages of famous couples resulting in astonishing consequences. Participants will research and present reports on extraordinary marriages for class discussion.

Helen Burford has moderated a number of classes on many diverse topics. Of marriage, she says: "I got it right the second time. However, that does not give me the right to offer advice to anyone." She is eager to explore, with the class, what makes for great partnerships.

Cathy Quick worked as an adult educator and trainer in both official languages. She looks forward to the chance to investigate the institution where the desired outcome is joy, which may or may not be achieved.

Limited to 30 participants

Dates: Oct. 14 – Dec. 2 (8 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 2:10 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Fee: \$39.00

Moderators: Helen Burford and Cathy Quick

● Fabulous Fridays: Adventures in Art

This is what makes Fridays fabulous—an entertaining, provocative, and stimulating stroll through the visual arts with Terry McGrail leading the way. Perhaps it will be a visit to a small, intimate gallery or the fascinating studio of a Toronto artist or the AGO or ROM. Whatever the venue, you can be sure it will be special.

And after the visual experiences, many participants linger over a coffee to discuss their reactions.

Note: There is a fair amount of walking involved in gallery hopping. Transportation is NOT provided.

Terry McGrail has a long-standing interest in the visual arts. She loves to share her passion and knowledge with the many groups that she has led over the years. This very popular program always attracts a large number of participants, many of whom return again and again.

Limited to 40 participants

Dates: Oct. 7 – Dec. 9 (10 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$85.00 (Includes all extra costs)

Moderator: Terry McGrail

**Please note the starting time.*

Note: In view of the popularity of this course and its traditionally long waitlist, if you are likely to miss three or more sessions, please do not enroll so that there is space for others.

● Wine Tasting:

Comparative Grapes Around the World

Do you enjoy sipping a glass of wine with friends? As you savour the taste, do you wonder why the taste of an Australian Chardonnay or Shiraz is different from a California Chardonnay or Shiraz? Well, here's an afternoon class you shouldn't miss. Michael Pinkus, LIFE's Grape Guy, will lead us on a trip around the world comparing grape varieties. Along the way, we'll pick up information on the history and secrets of wine-making, and various styles of wine. And Friday afternoon is the perfect time.

Bring along some bread to cleanse the palate between the various tastings and a set of six inexpensive tasting glasses. Come, learn, and enjoy!

Michael Pinkus is currently President of the Wine Writers Circle of Canada and award-winning writer for OntarioWineReview. He has created and planned the wine courses for LIFE over the past three years and leads our bus tours to Niagara Wineries.

Limited to 20 participants

Dates: Oct. 7 – Nov. 25 (8 sessions)

Time: Fridays, 2:10 p.m. – 3:55 p.m.

Fee: \$125.00 (includes cost of wine)

Lecturer: Michael Pinkus