



ASSOCIATION for CONTINUING EDUCATION at Case Western Reserve University

Message from the President

Despite the pandemic that has changed our lives over the past year, ACE is still working to continue to present our events, and this newsletter is an effort to keep you informed of our activities. The Strategic Planning Committee, led by Joanne Mortimer, has been meeting to discuss the position of ACE, our strengths, but also what we must do to improve and continue our programs in the future by increasing our visibility in the community, increasing membership and growing our budget. In order to better evaluate the interests of members, the committee will be creating a brief survey that you will be receiving via email. Please respond quickly so that they can proceed with their work of improving ACE with programs that reflect our mission.



Bobbie Farrell

Book Discussion Day



Thank you to Marjorie Kitchell and Nancy Barlow for leading the committee for the past several years. This is an important event for ACE. We are grateful to Judy Orinin and Nancy Bronson for organizing this year's Zoom presentation. Mark your calendar for **Monday April 19, 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m.** The book is *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, by Ocean Vuong. The author is best known as a poet and this is his highly acclaimed debut novel. Professor John Bratney from John Carroll University will be our speaker. The first hour of the meeting will be devoted to introductions and the presentation by Professor Bratney. During the second hour attendees will be able to have their questions answered by the speaker. The event is free to ACE members, \$10 for nonmembers. Register online at case.edu/lifelonglearning/, or by phone to 216-368-2090. You will receive a link in your email shortly before the event.

Praise for *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

“With stunning urgency and grace Ocean Vuong writes of people caught between disparate worlds, and asks how we heal and rescue one another without forsaking who we are. The question of how to survive, and how to make it a kind of joy is at the heart of this debut novel.”

Cleveland Gem Tour

Inspired by the very successful winter tour with Dr. Sandhaus, the New Programs Committee is planning a spring virtual tour in collaboration with the education department at the CMA. The tour is being planned for April, we will see objects from the in house exhibit “Stories from Storage”. You will receive a date and registration information next month.

Author Luncheon Series

The New Programs Committee has met to discuss the continuation of programs by local authors during the summer. Given the present circumstances it is likely that they may have to be Zoom meetings. However, the luncheons with the authors present, signing books and having individual conversations with attendees makes this event popular, so if conditions allow for in person gatherings we will plan accordingly. Members of the committee are in touch with local authors and we will let you know as soon as possible if our authors will appear on Zoom or in person.

Updates

Cleveland Gem Tour: Art and Epidemics

Our most recent event was a Zoom tour guided by Dr. Linda Sandhaus, a retired pathologist, with an MA in Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and now a docent at CMA . Linda wove centuries of cultural and medical history with works of art from the CMA and other museums to illustrate the influence of pandemics.

“If you missed our recent “Art and Epidemics” lecture, you missed a special event. Dr. Sandhaus showed pictures and talked about how epidemics from the past influenced artists to depict it in their art. Showing pictures from CMA and museums around the world, Linda fascinated us all with her knowledge of art and medicine.” **Barbara Brennan**

“Who knew that pandemics in the past had inspired some memorable artistic works? With some skepticism I watched and was totally captivated by the presentation in which historic pandemics were associated with art created during the time of crisis. And she tied it all up with several amusing quizzes.” **Sheldon Gisser**

Lecture Day: Artificial Intelligence, Promise and Perils

The topic in October was Artificial Intelligence, and more is being discovered everyday. From Professor Sharona Hoffman: “Algorithmic fairness should constitute a key element in designing, implementing, and validating AI. Policy makers and AI experts should carefully consider what legal and technical tools should be deployed to promote AI”. From Professor Wyatt Newman: “Based on neuroscience fundamentals, the capabilities and potentials of Deep Learning increasingly rival or surpass human cognition, recognizing faces, performing language interpretation, performing patent and legal searches, interacting with customers, generating ‘deep fake’ videos and influencing elections, to name a few. New A.I. systems are learning to read and comprehend on their own, which will further accelerate their growth.”

ACE History Highlights

The roots of ACE reach back to the founding of Cleveland College and the year 1932 when Newton D. Baker pulled together a group of civic and social leaders to form a women's auxiliary for the college. The Women's Association of Cleveland College became the Women's Association of Continuing Education in the 1950's, and later, when men were admitted, the name changed to the Association for Continuing Education. ACE was closely associated with CWRU, until recently as a part of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 1938 Grazella Shepherd, head of general education at Cleveland College (under the direction of Western Reserve University), introduced a new and unconventional form of learning for adult students: discussion classes led by teachers who were trained for this new format. These courses turned into Living Room Learning in 1954. Grazella Shepherd's motto for these classes was "accurate reading, creative listening and responsible speech", a departure from the more passive receptivity of the lecture hall.

Book Discussion Day, an annual event, was started in 1963 as the result of work done by the Education Committee, which at that time was administering Living Room Learning classes. The committee's goal was to sharpen skills in perceptive reading and discussion, at the same time increasing knowledge and understanding. The committee reads and evaluates challenging books throughout the year, selecting a work that provokes discussion on many levels. This year, for the first time the meeting will not include small group discussions and lunch but we are grateful that the event will be presented on Zoom.

Look for more e-newsletters and the ACE NEWS Spring Edition for information about ACE events. Invite a friend to join and share our programs. We're all looking forward to when we can meet again in person and ACE is continuing to plan with that expectation. In the meantime you can visit our website at www.acesite.org. Stay safe everyone.

Bobbie Farrell, ACE President

