

# THE Veritas VOICE

Volume 27 Number 3 A Publication of the Veritas Society, Bellarmine University Spring 2023

## SPRING TERM BRINGS GREATER RETURN TO CAMPUS – WHILE STILL PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES AT HOME!

If Veritas thought back to five years ago, online classes were something that were completely out of the question! Veritas members looked forward to coming to campus, socializing with their friends and classmates before class in the hallways, visiting the University Dining Hall for a meal, and battling to find a parking spot closest to the doors. This was all we knew. Fast forward to 2023, and Veritas has shifted to a model that meets our members where they are.

Due to the forward thinking of the Veritas Board of Directors, Curriculum Committee, and Production Team, our focus has remained on making sure all of our members have an opportunity to participate in classes. We know many of you are ready to be back on campus in the classroom, while others enjoy or have a necessity for remaining at home on Zoom. We are also making an effort to accommodate our presenters with their format needs, which differ greatly depending on their subject and style.

This Spring, we are making our largest return to the Bellarmine Campus since Spring 2020. While we are offering more in-person classes, we have balanced the schedule with opportunities to participate virtually either in fully Zoom courses or on the Zoom version of a hybrid class. Pay special attention when registering to select your preference between in-person or Zoom when registering for a hybrid class.

The Spring catalog is scheduled to be emailed on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Online registration will open at 9 a.m. on February 1<sup>st</sup> and close February 17<sup>th</sup>. Classes begin on February 27<sup>th</sup> and run through April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Veritas Members received a letter via email last week with updated fee information from the Board of Directors and Veritas Office. The membership fee will be \$50 for the Spring term, and courses will be \$30 each.

As a reminder, Veritas members who are coming to campus for class are required to upload their COVID vaccination card before classes begin. See catalog p. 6 for further information.

### Spring 2023 – Key Dates to Remember :

**Spring Catalog Emailed to Members – January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Spring Registration Opens – February 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 am**

**Prospective Member Information Session – February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2 pm**

**Spring Registration Closes – February 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Confirmation Emails Sent – Week of February 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Spring Classes Begin – February 27<sup>th</sup>**

## SPRING SCHEDULE IS SURE TO DELIGHT!

Checking out the Daily Schedule at a Glance on page 5 of the Spring catalog is bound to generate excitement amongst our Veritas members. You will notice names of past instructors who are returning to the classroom like Ken Stammerman, Tina Adams, Barry Chafin, and Jerry Hubbs. New presenters like John Hulgren and Mary Nebelsick might catch your attention. Morning discussion courses have returned to the schedule, a past favorite of many of our members.

As you turn the pages of the catalog, you might notice the change in category names at the top of the pages and listed below each course. As always, the courses on the online registration will be listed under their respective category. To better distinguish types of courses from each other, Veritas will be using the following

categories:

**Inner Life:** Religion, philosophy, psychology, spirituality.

**Literature:** American and world fiction, poetry, essays, drama

**The World:** History, political, social and cultural Issues

**Arts and Entertainment:** Performing arts, fine arts, pop art, architecture

**Americana:** U.S. History and governance; political, social and cultural issues

**Applied Knowledge:** Science, technology, health, economics

In “Inner Life,” Tina Adams will guide a discussion on how personality affects close relationships.

For literature lovers, five courses with a wide variety of focus will be offered. Jonathan Smith is concentrating on women poets that he has ignored during his Sidney, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, and Browning courses. A book discussion focusing on a café in a small town in the South, the relationship between an elderly woman and younger woman desperate for friendship, and fried green tomatoes will be led by Panzi Panzera. Marilyn Schorin will guide a discussion on Siddhartha Mukherjee’s *The Song of The Cell* which will take a look at medicine and what it means to be human. Barry Chafin returns to explore John Steinbeck’s final book: *America and Americans and Selected Nonfiction*. Greek storyteller Aesop and his fables will be explored in class with Evanthis Speliotis.

“The World” combines the present with the past. Sandra Cherry’s Chautauqua Lectures, John Sistarenick’s International Issues and Challenges, and Ken Stammerman’s Conflict Zones in the Middle East all focus on current events plaguing the world we live in. We also turn to the historical side for part II of The Celtic World organized by Dennis Wiseman, Don Graeter on Churchill: The War Years, a look into the French Resistance Movement during World War II and the women that were

behind it with Ann Nunn, and finally Jerry Hubbs and Bob Pfaadt present the life, battles, and accomplishments of Napoleon.

The “Entertainment” category is filled with familiar presenters who know how to do just that, entertain. Mike Marple turns away from Musicals this term, and instead brings out his mysterious side to focus on “The Queen of Crime” Agatha Christie. Eric Schmall continues with part II of his Golden Age of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Movie Comedies looking at Hollywood’s best from 1970 to 2000. Bud Spalding has put together 5 weeks of Post War Films of Capra, Ford, Huston, Stevens, and Wyler to fill your Friday Afternoons.

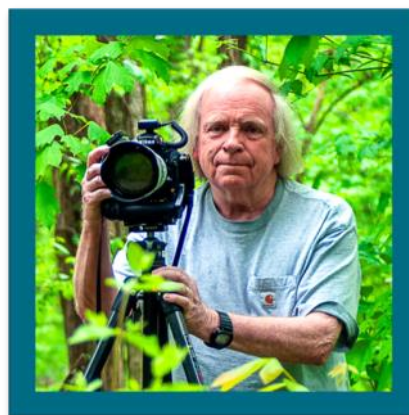
“Americana” courses focus on issues related to the United States. Included this Spring is Mike Williams’ longstanding Cases and Controversies course which will look at decisions made and pending in 2022 and 2023. Jeff Conner will dive into industry and capitalism with Robber Barons and the Rise of American Industry. Freedom’s Songs, presented by new presenter Mary Nebelsick, will focus on the intersection between music and the Civil Rights Movement and the hope that developed as a result.

“General Topics” has been renamed as “Applied Knowledge,” bridging the gap between our science and health related courses and what some refer to as “how to” classes. A new concept, plant thinking, will be introduced by Jack Furlong in Savvy Spruce and Mindful Mimosas: The Case for Plant

“Thinking.” New presenter John Hultgren will provide the basics of photography in Beginning Digital Photography, and Cathy Schaffer brings a new class to Veritas with Mindful Chair Yoga, a subtle style that calms the nervous system and increases the mind-body connection.



Mary Nebelsick



John Hultgren

## Veritas Office Staffing

As a reminder, the Veritas Office is currently staffed only by Abigail Walsh, Director of the Center for Community and Professional Enrichment. Abigail is the Veritas Society Liaison and Program Coordinator, but also has additional responsibilities at the University overseeing adult enrichment, professional development, and summer youth programming, as well as serving as Staff Council Co-President.

Callie Clark, Bellarmine Undergraduate Student, will be assisting in the office on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons as part of the work-study program.

For quickest response time, it is best to email [veritas@bellarmine.edu](mailto:veritas@bellarmine.edu). Abigail is able to check email regularly throughout the day, whereas if you call and she is on a meeting, she is unable to pick up the line. The Veritas Office thanks you for your patience!

## SPRING PROSPECTIVE MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION

The Veritas Society is once again recruiting new members for the Spring! The Promotion Committee will be hosting an Information Session on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2 pm on Bellarmine's campus, and on Zoom, for those interested in joining Veritas.

Membership is open to those retired or semi-retired, 50 years and older, who want to keep their minds active, open, and growing. Membership is no longer restricted to those in the Louisville area due to the availability of Zoom and Hybrid courses.

We encourage you to invite your friends to attend the information session to hear what Veritas is all about! They can RSVP at [tinyurl.com/veritassp23](https://tinyurl.com/veritassp23) or email [veritas@bellarmine.edu](mailto:veritas@bellarmine.edu). Specific location information will be sent to those who RSVP.

## LOTS OF VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES THIS WINTER!

Once again, Veritas is filling time between semesters with exciting classes or virtual field trips, with nominal fees. Look through the following offerings, and if you find some things you like, [click here](#) to register.



**New York City's Central Park: A Deep, Virtual Dive from Afar**  
Mini-Course  
Presented by Denise Davis

Join Denise for a deep dive into the story of this iconic park. We will begin with pre-park history, learning of its reason for existence and the battle over location. Then, participants will meet the designers, Calvert Vaux and Frederick Law Olmsted, whose late entry best fulfilled the requirements of a contest. We will review that masterful Greensward Plan, and what had to be done to bring it to life. We will also virtually visit the many treasured features that have been added throughout this past century. Finally, we will acknowledge the role of Central Park Conservancy in maintaining its iconic beauty for all to know and enjoy today.

**Tuesdays, January 17, 24, 31, February 7**  
**2 - 3:30 p.m. - \$15**

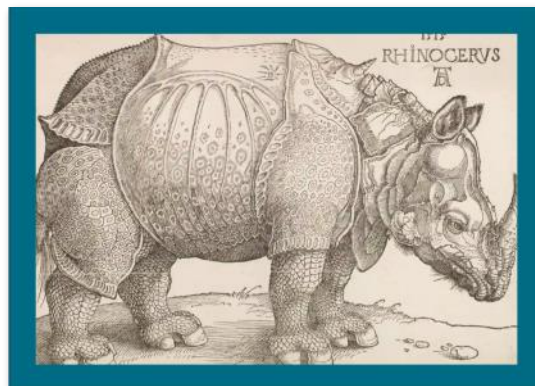


**Metro Louisville's Economic Development  
Initiatives: Implications for Our Senior  
Population  
Mini-Course  
Presented by Bob Tiell**

This mini-course will examine the ways that different economic development organizations in the Metro Louisville Area have created and implemented programs and services that not only have relevance for our community's senior population but which have the clear potential of favorably meeting the needs and well being of our seniors.

In addition to material introduced by the lead instructor, representatives from different economic development organizations will serve as guest speakers and provide more details regarding their respective programs and services. The major goal of this class is to acquaint and familiarize class participants with information and knowledge that, even if not immediately useful, can prove beneficial for seniors and/or their cohort population some time in the future. The senior population continues to be a fast growing demographic. Helping them become more aware of relevant information, resources and trends is again a major goal.

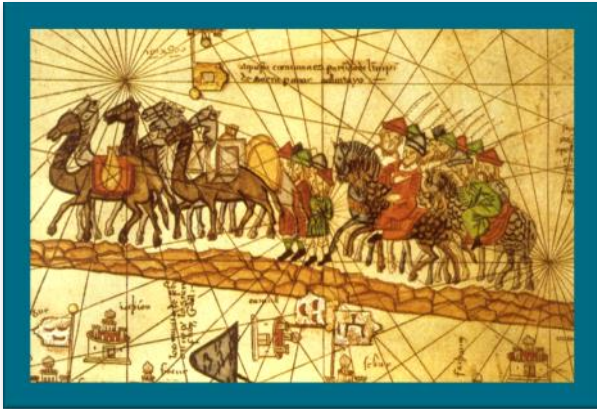
**Wednesdays, February 1, 8, 15, 22  
2 - 3:15 p.m. - \$15**



**Artists Did What?  
Distance Dialogue  
Presented by Lee Rubinstein,  
The Getty Museum  
Los Angeles, California**

You probably did not learn this stuff in your Art History class! Beyond the dates of birth and death and what they painted, artists had some interesting lives. Did you know Albrecht Dürer drew a rhinoceros even though he had never seen one? Or that Michelangelo had such horrible body odor his assistants could not stand to work near him? How about the fact Edouard Manet was once insulted by a critic and the artist was so upset, he demanded a duel? Did you know Henri Rousseau had a criminal record, or that Renoir once traded a portrait for a pair of shoes? We'll look at their fascinating yet offbeat lives and their works in the Getty Collection.

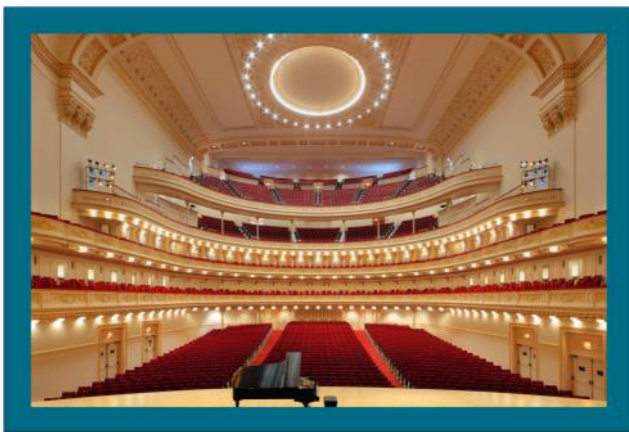
**Thursday, January 26th  
2 pm - \$5**



**The Silk Road  
Distance Dialogue  
Presented by Marilyn Schorin**

What actually is The Silk Road? Join Marilyn Schorin for a presentation of her recent travels to The Silk Road.

**Thursday, February 2nd  
2 p.m. - \$5**

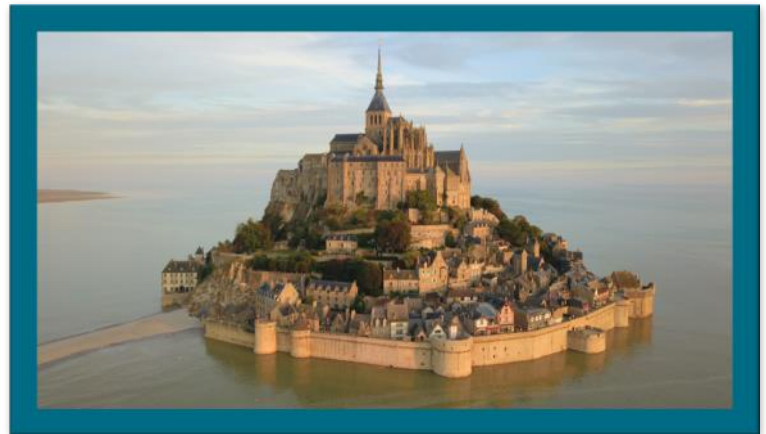


**Carnegie Hall  
Virtual Field Trip  
New York, New York**

Get to know the concert hall that has inspired great artists for more than a century. Take a guided tour of Carnegie Hall, and experience

the history and magic of this legendary New York City landmark. The guide will take participants through several backstage and on-stage areas, not usually visited by the public.

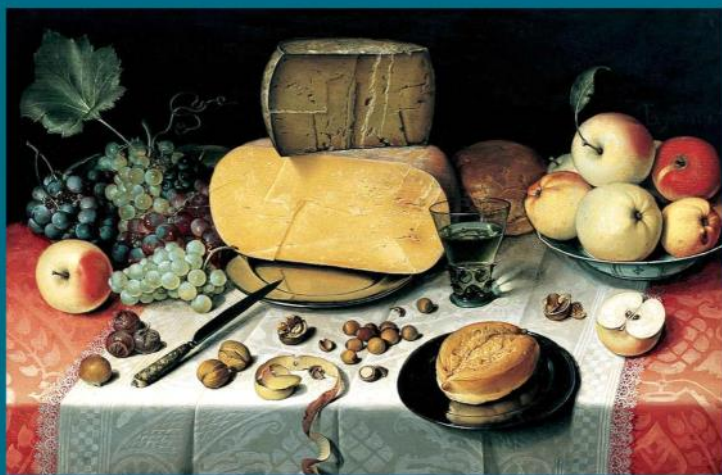
**Thursday, February 9th  
10:30 a.m. - \$5**



**Le Mont St. Michel  
Distance Dialogue  
Presented by Jacqueline Thomas**

This French UNESCO World Heritage island, situated on the border of Normandy/Brittany on the English Channel, has more than 3 million visitors each year. This 11th-century Benedictine abbey was an important pilgrimage of faith during the Middle Ages, and is cut off from land twice a day at high tide.

**Friday, February 17th  
10 a.m. - \$5**



**Pleasures of the Table  
Distance Dialogue  
Presented by Lee Rubinstein,  
The Getty Museum  
Los Angeles, California**

Food...it's so much more than sustenance, especially in art. It can be a feast for the eyes. Through our collection, we will explore how provisions have been portrayed in art through the centuries. There will be some interesting insights into the symbolism of food and we will look at serving dishes and vessels and how they have been portrayed in art, especially in still life paintings.

**Thursday, February 23rd  
2 p.m. - \$5**

Again, [click here](#) to register for any of the above activities.

## JOIN THE VERITAS BOARD

This spring eight of the Veritas Board of Directors' 18 directors will be elected for a two-year term, running from June 2023 through May 2025.

If you'd like to get on the ballot – which will be emailed to members in March – contact Rebecca Beyerle, board vice president, at [beyerler@gmail.com](mailto:beyerler@gmail.com), by March 1. Remember, newcomers are often elected to the board, so give it a try!

It's recommended you attend a board meeting before deciding to seek election to see if your skills and interests fit with those of the organization. The next meeting is February 10 on campus. You must have paid membership fees for at least one term within the academic year to be eligible to run.

## MEET MARILYN SCHORIN

*(Part of our series of member profiles; Marilyn is a member of the Board of Directors and frequent presenter.)*

### **How long have you been in Veritas? What brought you to the organization and what are your thoughts on the time you have spent or experiences you have had there?**

I cannot recall exactly when I joined Veritas. I think it was around 2008. I know I have a directory from 2010. The class that grabbed my attention was “First Ladies” and it was taught by Jane Keller. She was terrific. While the classes have always been the main focus, I was intrigued by finding a diverse group of people interested in lifelong learning. That there is a community of such people in Louisville still delights me. I have been very fortunate to teach a variety of courses about topics as diverse as Nutrition and Women of the Supreme Court!

### **What is your professional background?**

I was trained in Nutrition. I hold a BS in Dietetics from UC-Berkeley, a Master’s in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry from Columbia University. I worked primarily in the corporate world, first for Weight Watchers International and then in the scientific and regulatory group at Pepsi. After retiring from Pepsi in 2002, I was recruited by Yum Brands and became their first nutritionist, where I led the project to remove trans fat from KFC products.

### **Who inspires you?**

I am inspired by curious people. Those who ask “why?” or “why do you think that is?” encourage both introspection and research. Of course, this means I never have the full answer to any question, so I am often afraid that the partial answer will reveal my ignorance.

### **How do you relax at home?**

I love to read. I’m in 3 book groups in addition to leading a Veritas book discussion class. In addition, I am addicted to puzzles — the New York Times crossword is my daily habit and, more recently, I have taken up Spelling Bee, Wordle, Quordle, and Octordle.

### **Do you have thoughts one way or the other about the past few years; about teaching or taking classes in the shadow of Covid?**

I have very mixed thoughts. After my beloved husband’s untimely death in 2017, I had to nurture resilience and greater appreciation of others. When Covid locked us down, I wanted to find and help others less resilient to the isolation and alienation imposed on us. Working with Veritas volunteers, we called all of the members to offer resources for those in need. Although I

know that Covid has been hard on those of us living alone, I fear the impact on school-age children has been even more dire.

On the other hand, I am so proud of Veritas and people like you. You pioneered our virtual learning which was inspirational.

### **You have often generously shared your travel experiences with members of Veritas (including an upcoming presentation on the Silk Road). Do you have “favorite” places you return to repeatedly?**

I love to travel, to meet new people, see new places, taste new foods. However, I return to London nearly every summer for a wonderful two-week program that combines theater, lectures about theater and interviews with key people from the plays we see. London, like New York, is a magical city where you see people of many colors in all manner of dress speaking a cacophony of languages. The city, the plays — it’s a renewal for me.





## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

One hundred and twenty-four Veritas members gathered for a festive Holiday Luncheon in Frazier Hall at Bellarmine on December 9. Good conversation, great food, and a splendid seasonal concert by the YPAS Chamber Choir, directed by Jacob Cook. Kudos to Sandra Cherry and her volunteers for a lovely and well-organized event!



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Beyond the Veritas classes—and not limited to term-time—Veritas members are invited to take part in a variety of voluntary interest groups. Here are the ones currently meeting.

**The Spirituality Interest Group** has both in-person and zoom meetings, and both have been well-attended. The in-person group meets at 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month. (The regular location is under renovation, but the temporary meeting place will be given when you sign up.) The Zoom session meets at 10:30 a.m. the last Wednesday of the month. The groups are led by Barbara MacDonald, who has taught courses on Christianity, Spirituality, and Cosmology. A main theme incorporated in all her writings and classes is the awareness that we are spiritual beings having a human experience. She also holds that we learn from one another and welcomes all faith traditions to be part of the discussion. For more information and to get the Zoom link, contact Barb at [barbpmac@gmail.com](mailto:barbpmac@gmail.com).

**The Veritas Movie Dinner Group** meets monthly on the first Thursday of each month. Members are asked to take turns choosing a movie at a local theater and then after the movie a nearby restaurant. There they can discuss the movie and share their insights. Members can choose to go to both the movie and dinner or one or the other. Please feel free to contact Facilitator Linda Miller at

[linda.loves.walking@gmail.com](mailto:linda.loves.walking@gmail.com) or at 502-216-4075.

**The Healthy Eating Group** is meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month, eating at various restaurants that specialize in healthy fare. Contact Rebecca Beyerle [beyerler@gmail.com](mailto:beyerler@gmail.com) or (502) 454-0368 for reservations or additional information.

**The Mystery Book Discussion Group** is meeting in person and on Zoom; it meets the first Tuesday of the month from 10:30 p.m. to noon at the Highlands-Shelby Park Library in the Mid-City Mall. Contact Rebecca Beyerle by email at [beyerler@gmail.com](mailto:beyerler@gmail.com) to receive notices of future book choices. Just ahead: February 7: Earl Derr Biggers' Charlie Chan books; March 7: *Strangers on a Train* by Patricia Highsmith.



**The Ethnic Lunch Group** meets the second Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at various locations for different ethnic food each time. For information and reservations, contact organizer Mary Helen Thompson at (502) 459-5750 or email her at [thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonmaryhelen1@gmail.com).

**Editor's Note:** Last issue I invited readers' input but neglected to give my email address (rookie error!). It is [smith@hanover.edu](mailto:smith@hanover.edu). To repeat the invitation: I invite your comments, your suggestions, and especially your written contributions. Have a book, movie, TV show you think Veritas members should know about? Is there a fellow member you think would be interesting to interview? Have you had a Veritas experience you just have to share? Pass it along! I already depend a lot on the incomparable help of Veritas staff (i.e., Abigail Walsh) and my fellow board members, but I'm more than happy to depend on you as well! Have a great winter and spring.—  
*Jonathan Smith, Editor*

## WHO WE ARE

Since 1995, Veritas has offered the preeminent learning experience to people over 50 in the Louisville area. Our mission is to keep our minds active, open and growing, with the goals of:

- Understanding our past history and cultural heritage
- Informing members about what is happening around us
- Recognizing changes in the world and finding our place in it

We are retired or semi-retired people: doctors, educators, homemakers, office workers, administrators, artists, laborers, and executives. We are governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership.

## CONTACT US

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## OFFICE STAFF

Abigail Walsh – Liaison & Program Coordinator  
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