

Spring Schedule - January to June 2009

as of 5 June 2009

Day	Date	Time	Title	Description
Tue	6 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	Between Bullet and Hospital: Clara Barton at Fredericksburg Presenter: Don Pfanz Sponsor: Alan Zirkle	The most famous woman to emerge from the Civil War was Clara Barton. The future founder of the American Red Cross got her start nursing wounded soldiers in Virginia. But what did she actually do? Historian Donald Pfanz will examine Clara Barton's claims and offer a realistic appraisal of her accomplishments in Fredericksburg.
Thu	8 Jan 09	13:00-15:00	Book Group: Digging to America: A Novel by Anne Tyler Presenter: Judy Finney Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	A story about what it is to be an American, and about Iranian-born Maryam Yazdan, who, after 35 years in this country, must finally come to terms with her "outsiderness."
Tue	13 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	Talking Heads vs. Journalists: The Face of Journalism in the 21st Century Presenter: Edie Gross Sponsor: Dave Hill	Americans have more sources of information than ever before: newspapers, satellite radio, 24-hour cable news, talk shows, blogs, Internet publications, Twitter. So what qualifies as "journalism" vs. just chatter? And who is a journalist vs. just a source of information? And does it even matter?
Wed	14 Jan 09	13:00-15:00	History of Buckland, Virginia Presenter: David Blake Sponsor: Dennis Van Derlaske	Buckland, Virginia lies on the border of Fauquier and Prince William counties, and dates to the late 17th century. During its 19th century heyday, it served as a crossroads for both common folk and celebrated people with agricultural, transportation and equestrian "firsts". It was the site of a Civil War battle sometimes referred to as "Custer's First Stand". David Blake, the president of the Buckland Preservation Society, will discuss the multi-faceted history of this important site and include some recent discoveries and how they are continuing to learn from the town and preserve it.
Tue	20 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	Oil Films on Water Surfaces: A Study of Science and Technology, History and Ethics Presenter: Jim Wightman Sponsor: Phil Hall	Surface free energy, a physical property of liquids, will be discussed and illustrated with demonstrations. The contributions of Benjamin Franklin, Agnes Pockels, Lord Rayleigh, Irving Langmuir and Katherine Blodgett to our understanding of monolayer films on water will then be detailed.

Day	Date	Time	Title	Description
Thu	22 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	A Town Goes to War: Fredericksburg on the Homefront in World War II Presenter: John Hennessy Sponsor: Bill Toomey	We will look at the experience of Fredericksburgers as they pitched in to help the nation during World War II—an effort hampered by a disastrous flood and heartache on the homefront.
Tue	27 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	Discovering George Washington's Boyhood Home Presenter: Dr. Phil Levy Sponsor: Dave Hill	Professor Levy is an investigator at George Washington's Ferry Farm, the childhood home of the nation's first president. Since 2002 Levy has been conducting historical research in archives across the country in order to understand the complicated story of Washington's childhood. In this lecture he will share the fascinating story of three hundred years of the Washington Boyhood at Ferry Farm.
Wed	28 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	Albert Einstein: The Last Transformative Genius Presenter: Bulent Atalay Sponsor: Phil Hall	One hundred and thirty years after his birth Einstein continues to tantalize us as a bundle of contradictions: a poor student in his youth who single handedly launched a new paradigm for describing the universe, a man seen universally as a kind and gentle humanitarian was "a lowlife" by his own description when it came to his own family, a pacifist who catalyzed the development of the atom bomb, but ultimately proved intelligent and wise enough to turn down the Presidency of the fledgling state of Israel.
Thu	29 Jan 09	10:00-12:00	Great Voices of the 20th Century Presenter: Steve Sanders Sponsor: Janet Wishner	A sound and visual study of some of the great classical voices from the golden age of singing.
Tue	3 Feb 09	10:00-12:00	Embedded with the Troops: Civil War Battlefield Photography Presenter: Eric Mink Sponsor: Alan Zirkle	The American Civil War was the first conflict to be documented through the use of photography. Using their cameras, men such as Matthew Brady, Alexander Gardner and Andrew J. Russell brought the war from the battlefields into the parlors and homes. Historian Eric Mink will discuss the development of photography, its use to document the war and the impact the battlefield images had on the home front.
Thu	5 Feb 09	10:00-12:00	Foreign Currency Exchange Presenter: Steve Greenlaw Sponsor: Phil Hall	The Dollar Goes Up, the dollar goes down, but what drives the value of the dollar?
Thu	5 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	The Gardens of Mt. Vernon from Past to Present Presenter: Dean Norton Sponsor: Margaretta Williamson	The Gardens of Mt. Vernon from Past to Present

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Tue	10 Feb 09	10:00-12:00	Fredericksburg Area Museum Tour: Behind the Scenes in the New Facility Presenter: Ed Watson Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	We will go behind the scenes and see how it was all put together. How does it work and why did we do it this way? Meet at the Museum, 907 Princess Anne Street in Downtown Fredericksburg.
Wed	11 Feb 09	10:00-12:00	Play Discussion: "Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Julia)" Presenter: Marc Williams Sponsor: Carole Hanus	The play is by Ann-Marie MacDonald. Plucky college professor Constance Ledbelly sets out to prove that Shakespeare's two most famous tragedies were, in fact, comedies penned by an unknown author. She disappears into her wastebasket and emerges invincible in the worlds of Othello and Romeo and Juliet, conjuring swashbuckling adventure and laugh-out-loud results. Join us for a discussion of the play, costumes, and set. Tickets go on sale February 04 and will also be available after class. Box Office 654-1124. Show dates: February 12 - 14 at 8:00 pm, February 15 at 2:00 pm, February 19 - 21 at 8:00 pm, and February 22 at 2:00 pm
Thu	12 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	Book Group: Kitchen Table Wisdom by Rachel Remen Discussion: Roger Bourdon Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen wants her readers to appreciate the healing life force they all possess and to look at life as the gift it is.
Tue	17 Feb 09	10:00-12:00	American Life a Hundred Years Ago: The View from African American Newspapers Presenter: Claudine Ferrell Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	During the late 1800s and early 1900s, black newspapers documented African Americans' "two-ness" as both Americans and blacks. While revealing the special interests of blacks (e.g., lynching and disfranchisement), they also covered issues facing Americans in general: elections, wars, hair and dress styles, marriage, and celebrities. The papers varied widely in their efforts to appeal to readers and to serve as leaders of their race. The result is a window into a nation that most Americans today would find easily recognizable but also significantly different.
Tue	17 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	Membership Committee Meeting Sponsor: Carole Hanus	The Membership Committee has many responsibilities including publicity, the newsletter, maintaining the web site and planning social events. Members are always welcome to attend Committee meetings to help with what we do and bring ideas for new things to try.
Wed	18 Feb 09	10:00-12:00	Story Telling with an American Twist Presenter: Megan Hicks Sponsor: Pat Sutherland	Megan Hicks will relate the true tale of a woman slave and her involvement with an ironclad during the Civil War.
Wed	18 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	Gallery Tour: Andy Warhol's Athletes—Portraits from the Richard Weisman Collection Presenter: Megan Parry Sponsor: Peg Johnson	A gallery tour of the thirteen Andy Warhol athlete portrait prints on loan from art collector Richard Weisman. Discussed will be how the works were obtained by UMW, Richard Weisman's relationship with Andy Warhol, and Richard Weisman's status and involvement in art collecting today.

Day	Date	Time	Title	Description
Thu	19 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	Curriculum Committee Meeting Sponsor: Janet Wishner	Open to all interested members; help us plan the curriculum for the next semester.
Tue	24 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	Animal Communication: Are they Talking to You? Presenter: Roy Smith Sponsor: Margareta Williamson	We will emphasize the variety of modes of communication in animals and their overlap with our own. We will address the animal language controversy and discuss why it does or does not matter very much.
Thu	26 Feb 09	13:00-15:00	Landscaping Presenter: Joanie Wilson Sponsor: Janet Wishner	Some tips for gardeners who have smaller areas and less energy than their home plots and ambitions accommodate; suggestions for planning and maintaining pleasing gardens.
Wed	4 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Administrative Committee Meeting Sponsor: Bob Hanus	The Administration Committee is responsible for developing policies and plans for operating the organization. The Committee reviews governing documents, updates the contents of the Procedures Manual, monitors finances and projects future needs, proposes an annual budget and annual fees. Members are always welcome to attend Committee meetings.
Thu	5 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Walt Whitman Presenter: Mara Scanlon Sponsor: Pat Sutherland	The nineteenth-century rebel Walt Whitman is frequently cited as the father of American poetry and the voice for our young democracy. In addition to getting a sense of Whitman's life (including his visit to Fredericksburg during the Civil War), we will closely examine some of his writing, considering, among other things, how his vision for our nation applies some 150 years later.
Fri	6 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Board of Directors Meeting Sponsor: President Phil Hall	The Board meetings are open to all ElderStudy members. It is a great opportunity for all members to come and witness firsthand the exciting decision-making process that ensures ElderStudy is meeting its organizational objectives. Also, it is a chance for all members to provide directly to the Board and to Committee Chairpersons new ideas that will improve the way the organization does business.
Tue	10 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Forgotten Cities: Ancient Pompeii Presenter: Joe Romero Sponsor: Janet Wishner	Buried in volcanic ash in 79 CE, Pompeii and numerous coastal settlements were preserved "as they were that day" until first thieves, then archaeologists, started burrowing into the settlements from the 18th century onward. We shall survey the life and material remains of this costa bella getaway, meet the neighbors, visit various private and civic institutions (temples, brothels, etc.), and attend her through her final hours.
Tue	10 Mar 09	13:00-15:00	Banking and Finance: The Current Situation and Future Prospects Presenter: Paul Metzger Sponsor: Janet Wishner	The current disarray of the global financial and banking systems is symptomatic of deeper problems in their structure and regulation. The present crisis is an opportunity to address these underlying issues in a way that may avoid recurrence of periodic panics.

Day	Date	Time	Title	Description
Wed	11 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Our Energy Future: The View from the Petroleum Peak Presenter: Grant Woodwell Sponsor: Phil Hall	We will survey our present energy position about resources, with special emphasis on fossil fuels which fulfill almost 95% of our current needs. We will address the issues which will cause us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels due to geological constraints, geopolitical stresses, and the need to address climate change. We will look at different scenarios of our energy future that may unfold in the next few decades.
Thu	12 Mar 09	13:00-15:00	Book Group: Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle Discussion: Larry Turner Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	In this explosive and timely novel, T. Coraghessan Boyle confronts the controversy over illegal immigration, illuminating through a poignant, gripping story the people on both sides of the issue, the haves and the have-nots.
Fri	13 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	General Membership Meeting Sponsor: President Phil Hall	This is the open forum designed to communicate directly with your fellow members, to better learn how ElderStudy works, to better understand the issues that are facing the organization, and to vote on those critical issues facing us. In addition, new members can meet and develop friendships with likeminded persons and long term members can renew old friendships. There is always a delicious table of drinks and goodies that makes the meeting even more enjoyable.
Wed	18 Mar 09	13:00-15:00	Gallery Tour: Mind and Metaphor—Psychology and Symbolism in Mid-Century Painting Presenter: Megan Parry Sponsor: Peg Johnson	The exhibition features works from the permanent collection; Margaret Sutton, Arshile Gorky and Alfred Levitt will be represented. The Gallery owns over 5,000 of Margaret Sutton's works. She graduated from Mary Washington in 1926 and went to New York to pursue art. She was closely tied with Jungian psychology and underwent psychoanalysis herself. We will be selecting various pieces of her art collection to showcase her interest in Jung and psychoanalysis. We will also use works by Levitt and Gorky to supplement and enrich Sutton's works, as they both were interested in Jung and worked in New York at the same time as Sutton.
Thu	19 Mar 09	13:00-15:00	Curriculum Committee Meeting Sponsor: Janet Wishner	Open to all interested members; help us plan the curriculum for the next semester.
Tue	24 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Riverside Writers Read Presenter: Norma E. Redfern Sponsor: Larry Turner	Members of Riverside Writers will read poems, stories and essays from their new anthology, Riverside Revelations. Within the book you can share local authors' experiences of love contented and love gone wrong, children and family, town and country, and spirit and fantasy.
Wed	25 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	Challenges of the 70's and 80's in Fredericksburg Presenter: George Van Sant Sponsor: Phil Hall	The relatively recent history of this very historic city is an exciting story with heroes and villains and ups and downs, all told from the personal and perhaps slightly biased viewpoint of one of the period's most prominent citizen leaders.

Day	Date	Time	Title	Description
Thu	26 Mar 09	10:00-12:00	How Pollution Occurs in Lakes and Rivers Presenter: Dr. Nancy Simon Sponsor: Dave Hill	Environmental pollutants include a wide range of chemicals including nutrients in excess (phosphorus), organometallics (methyl mercury) and pharmaceuticals (antibiotics). To study the biogeochemistry of these chemicals in the environment, multiple tools are used including sediment fractionation, supercritical fluids, electrochemistry and nuclear magnetic resonance. This presentation will include discussions of studies in Louisiana bayous, the Florida Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay and Upper Klamath Lake, OR.
Thu	26 Mar 09	13:00-15:00	The La Ceiba Experiment: Microfinance in Honduras Presenter: Shawn Humphrey Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	La Ceiba is a collegiate microfinance project. Each student is responsible for bridging theory and practice in one aspect of the development process, such as management, law, marketing, economic theory, or client research, and synthesizing their findings as a whole. At the end of the semester, the course participants will travel to Honduras to implement the program's on-the-ground component.
Wed	1 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	Play Discussion: "The Heiress" Presenter: Helen Housley Sponsor: Carole Hanus	The play is by Ruth and Augustus Goetz. Shy and wealthy Catherine Sloper is ensconced in her well-to-do Washington Square brownstone when a handsome suitor, Morris Townsend, comes to call. Her gruff widower father is suspect of Townsend's motives as Catherine falls deeply for his charm and affections. The Heiress teeters in the delicate balance between wisdom, passion, love and fortune. Join us for a discussion of the play, costumes, and set. Tickets go on sale March 25 and will also be available after class. Box Office 654-1124. Show dates: April 2 - 4 at 8:00 pm, April 5 at 2:00 pm, April 9 - 11 at 8:00 pm, and April 12 at 2:00 pm.
Thu	2 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	Tour of The National Museum of the Marine Corps Presenter: Geoge Firehammer Sponsor: Larry Turner	The nationally acclaimed Marine Corps Museum opened in 2006, celebrating 231 years of Marine Corps history. Our guide, Fredericksburg resident George Firehammer, served 3 ½ years in the Marines, including thirteen months in Vietnam. He will present the three main galleries: Leatherneck, WWII, Korea, & Vietnam. If you wish to do a do-it-yourself carpool, meet at 9:15 at the Burlington Coat Factory on Route 3 in Fredericksburg. The museum is located on U.S. Route 1, off exit 150 of Rt. 95.
Wed	8 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	Strategic Challenges to American Foreign Policy Presenter: Jack Kramer Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	We explore the changing international security environment that the United States finds itself in today. We focus on how technology is impacting on this environment and the strategic challenges emanating therefrom for the United States. Topics include the rise of new powers in the world such as China and India, the changing nature of alliance systems, how global mass communications are promoting transnational political and religious ideologies and the pros and cons of global economic interdependencies, including its impact on the likelihood of war.

Day	Date	Time	Title	Description
Thu	9 Apr 09	13:00-15:00	Book Group: Eureka by Jim Lehrer Presenter: Tom Phillips Sponsor: Roger Bourdon	Jim Lehrer, of PBS News Hour fame, authors his 18th novel. A CEO's retirement, his escape/adventures on a Cushman motor scooter, packing a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun, West through Kansas. A quick read, funny.
Tue	14 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	The Psychology and Art of Japanese Flower Arrangement Presenter: Sue Bennett Sponsor: Margareta Williamson	This program will be presented by Korean born Sue Bennet who was certified in this art form during several years stay in Japan.
Wed	15 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	A "Tour" of Gallaudet University Presenter: Pia Taavila Sponsor: Dave Hill	Join Professor Taavila as she gives a brief overview of the history and character of Gallaudet University, described by former President Bill Clinton as a "national treasure."
Wed	15 Apr 09	13:00-15:00	New President, New Policies Presenter: Stephen Farnsworth Sponsor: Janet Wishner	The talk will discuss the early policy initiatives of President Obama, and will focus on how effective (or not) he has been on selling his policies and himself during his first three months as president.
Thu	16 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	Sexuality in Aging Presenter: Dr. Christopher Lillis Sponsor: Chuck Johnson	Dr. Lillis will discuss and summarize current research regarding a topic many of us are reluctant to discuss, even with our primary care physicians. He will discuss this topic from the perspective of both the male and female.
Thu	16 Apr 09	13:00-15:00	Curriculum Committee Meeting Sponsor: Janet Wishner	Open to all interested members; help us plan the curriculum for the next semester.
Tue	21 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	A Writer's Life Presenter: Linda White Sponsor: Pat Sutherland	Linda White, Assistant editorial page editor of The Free Lance-Star, will talk about how writing has helped her make sense of life. She has written poetry, magazine articles, newspaper opinion pieces, and is currently working on her second novel.
Tue	21 Apr 09	13:00-15:00	Membership Committee Meeting Sponsor: Carole Hanus	The Membership Committee has many responsibilities including publicity, the newsletter, maintaining the web site and planning social events. Members are always welcome to attend Committee meetings to help with what we do and bring ideas for new things to try.
Wed	22 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	Visiting the Villas and Churches of Andrea Palladio Presenter: Phil Hall Sponsor: Janet Wishner	Andrea Palladio (November 30, 1508 – August 19, 1580), was an Italian architect, widely considered the most influential person in the history of Western architecture. This illustrated presentation will share the experience of my recent "pilgrimage to Palladio."

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Thu	23 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	The Marine Band Presenter: MGySgt Michael Ressler Sponsor: Chuck Johnson	Master Gunnery Sergeant Mike Ressler, USMC, will provide a presentation on the the U.S. Marine Corps Band, to include some interesting stories from the Band's long and lustrous history. Then we will hear a presentation by a current band member, who will tell us how one becomes a band member and what the day-to-day life of a band member is like.
Tue	28 Apr 09	10:00-12:00	Tour of Kenmore House Presenter: Rebekah K. Wood Sponsor: Peg Johnson	Following an overview of Kenmore's history, we will explore the methodologies of the recent restoration of the mansion to its original Lewis-era appearance. Following the lecture, small groups will be taken on behind-the-scenes restoration tours of the geothermal HVAC vault, restoration collections storage and workspaces, and the mansion from attic to basement. Meet at Kenmore House, 1201 Washington Ave.
Tue	12 May 09	10:00-12:00	Animal Communication: No Idle Chatter Presenter: Dr. Andrew Dolby Sponsor: Dave Hill	Humans are far from alone in our ability to communicate complex messages. From bees to baboons, Dr. Dolby will review the visual, acoustic, and olfactory communication systems of animals and present glimpses of language facility in our closest relatives.
Tue	13 May 08	10:00-12:00	Homefolk and Heroes: A Walk through the Fredericksburg City and Confederate Cemeteries	We will visit the gravesites of Fredericksburg area residents who figured prominently in 19th Century history, and Confederate soldiers who perished on the local battlefields. Participants should wear comfortable shoes for walking. Meet at the Cemetery's iron gate at the end of Amelia Street.
Thu	14 May 09	13:00-15:00	Book Group: Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen	A destitute veterinary student hops a circus train and ends up caring for its menagerie and much more. (fiction)
Tue	19 May 09	11:30-13:30	End of Year Potluck Luncheon Sponsor: Carole Hanus	ElderStudy is completing 15 years of Lifelong Learning. Let's close out the 15th year and get ready for the 16th together. Join your colleagues for our annual end of year potluck. Same place as last year: the First Christian Church, 1501 Washington Street in Fredericksburg.
Wed	3 Jun 09	10:00-12:00	Administrative Committee Meeting Sponsor: Bob Hanus	The Administration Committee is responsible for developing policies and plans for operating the organization. The Committee reviews governing documents, updates the contents of the Procedures Manual, monitors finances and projects future needs, proposes an annual budget and annual fees. Members are always welcome to attend Committee meetings.
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