

ElderCollege Programs – Fall 2023

Below you will find detailed descriptions of ElderCollege at Silver Harbour programs for Fall 2023. Just a reminder that you must be a member of Silver Harbour in order to register in these programs. Silver Harbour membership costs \$35 a year, and you must come in person to fill out forms, sign our waiver and pay for your membership. Once you have a membership, you may register for programs by phone (using Mastercard or Visa) or in person (using cash, debit card, Mastercard or Visa) starting Tuesday, August 15th at 9:00 am.

Books Unlimited Book Club (on Zoom)

Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm (September 20 – December 13)

This popular book club, established in 1997, continues to welcome both returning and new participants. This friendly group loves to talk about fiction and occasionally a non-fiction book.

- Sept 20 - “The Quiet American” by Graham Greene
- Oct 11 – “The Sleeping Car Porter” by Suzette Mayr
- Nov 1 – “Horse” by Geraldine Brooks
- Nov 22 – “Shrines of Gaiety” by Kate Atkinson
- Dec 13 – “Women Talking” by Miriam Toews

Cinema Salon (On Zoom)

Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am (October 26 – November 23)

Cinema Salon this Fall is a series of diverse movies on the themes of moral greys: the ambiguity of right and wrong and resilience in the face of these, presented by Lorna Romilly, BA (English Literature), MSc (Health Planning & Admin), but most importantly a movie buff for over 60 years. (All of these movies are available on Kanopy, a free streaming service from your library).

Winter's Bone, 2010 (U.S.) - Oct. 26

Ozark teenager Ree Dolly (Jennifer Lawrence in an outstanding performance) does what she can to manage the household and take care of her two younger siblings. Informed by the sheriff that their father put their home up for a bond and then disappeared, Ree sets out on a quest to find him. Haunting, yet hopeful. "A stunning and authentic portrait." Winner of Best Actress and Director Awards and many nominations.

The Silent Partner, 1978 (Canada) - Nov. 2

A timid bank teller (Elliott Gould) anticipates a bank robbery and skims \$50,000 for himself before a robbery, and the robber (Christopher Plummer), when he realizes he's been fooled, wants it back. He tracks down the teller and engages him in a cat-and-mouse chase for the cash. "...A small but wonderful gem of a thriller". Warning – one extremely violent scene. Best film and director at Canadian film awards.

The Specials, 2019 (France – English subtitles) – Nov.9

For 20 years Bruno and Malik, each running an association devoted to helping young autistic people which the system cannot handle, have worked without official certification, and their future is suddenly unclear. "...A rare film, that comes both from the heart and reality...done with grace and humour." With the great Vincent Cassel. Nominated for several awards and was shown out of competition at Cannes.

Hell or High Water, 2016 (U.S.) – Nov. 16

Toby (Chris Pine) is a divorced father who's trying to make a better life for his family. His brother (Ben Foster) is an ex-con with a short temper and loose trigger finger. Together, they plan a series of heists against the bank that's about to foreclose on their mother's ranch. Meanwhile the Texas Ranger (Jeff Bridges) and his partner try to anticipate the next move of the thieves. Nominated for many awards. Jeff Bridges and the screenplay won several. "...classic, thoughtful and evocative storytelling."

Good Luck to You, Leo Grande, 2022 (UK) – Nov 23

Emma Thompson embodies the candor and apprehension of retired teacher Nancy Stokes, and newcomer Daryl McCormack personifies the charisma and compassion of sex worker Leo Grande. As Nancy embarks on a post-marital sexual awakening and Leo draws on his skills and charm, together they find a surprising human connection. "...wit, charm, and a seamless mix of laughs and pathos along the way. It's informed by kindness and respect." Winner and Nominations for several awards. Won Best Grownup Love Story.

History of China Lecture Series

Fridays, 10:00 – 11:30 am (October 6 – 27)

In its relationships with her Asian neighbours China considered herself a superior power, with neighbouring countries expected to pay her tribute. In the 1700s, western Europe's nations became interested in growing their trade and commerce with China. However, China's severe restrictions led to a century of conflict, gun-boat diplomacy and war, a period when China's sovereignty was constantly being diminished by the superior military and naval power of countries such as Britain, France and, later, also Japan. President Nixon's recognition of Mao's People's Republic of China was a turning point. Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping, set China on its path to become an economic powerhouse. Today its president, Xi Jinping, now in full autocratic control, aims to make China the globe's undisputed superpower.

The Qing Dynasty & its Relations with the Great Powers - October 6

Presented by Garrett Polman (PhD Chicago + graduate studies in History and Classics in Berlin and Oxford).

China traditionally considered itself a superior power with neighbouring countries sending periodic missions to the emperor in Beijing and paying tribute. In contrast, European Great Powers exchanged diplomatic representatives on the basis of reciprocity and diplomatic immunity. Europe's Great Powers such as Britain and France, as well as Japan would use gun-boat diplomacy to force China to give them trading rights, resulting in a "century of humiliation" for China from 1839 to 1945. This lecture will focus on the relations of the Qing dynasty with Europe's Great Powers and Japan from the mid-1700s to the demise of the dynasty in 1912.

Nixon in China - October 13

Presented by Bob Fuhr (M.A. McGill), instructor in History at Kwantlen Polytechnic University and an expert in US history.

President Richard Nixon made a historic visit to China in February 1972 which he considered to be one of the greatest achievements of his presidency. What led this staunch cold warrior to make overtures to a country that the United States had no relations with since the Communists took over in 1949? How did American policies toward the Soviet Union, the U.S. war in Vietnam, and domestic politics in an election year influence Nixon's thinking? This talk will examine the background and consequences of Nixon's historic trip to China which continues to shape international politics and economics to this day.

The Rise of Modern China under Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping - October 20

Presented by Allan Orr (M.A. UBC) who for many years taught History at the West Vancouver High School.

Mao united the Chinese people by establishing the communist People's Republic of China in 1949 after a Civil War of 22 years and invasion by Japan. He dominated China and the Party which established a Socialist economy. No official opposition was tolerated. After the chaos of the Mao years, in 1976 Deng Xiaoping embarked China on a nation-wide programme called "Reform and Opening" to lift China into the 20th century. "Reform and Opening" allowed foreign investment and capitalist methods of production leading to the modernization of China's economy.

Xi Jinping and China's Rise to Global Power – October 27

Presented by Allan Orr.

Xi became Chairman of the Party in 2012 and presided over a nation set to gain global status. Xi orchestrated the Beijing Olympics, inviting the world to witness China's progress as a Communist state. Under Xi China began to take over islands in the South China sea which entailed conflict with its neighbours. Xi embarked China on a historic adventure called the Belt and Road Initiative and established trading relations with Central Asia, Russia and the countries of Europe. Chinese trade goods now reach Europe by railways that cut travel time by ship. At home Xi developed a sophisticated surveillance state in which people's lives are impacted by surveillance cameras and cell phones. All forms of communication are subject to extreme censorship. Xi has achieved greater control over people and a country than any other Communist leader.

Incredible Journeys

Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am (October 4 - 25)

Here we go again on another wonderful travel series with ElderCollege. We are very pleased to be back in person and on site at our new home at Silver Harbour Seniors Centre. Come on in, bring a friend a snack or a beverage, fasten your seatbelts, sit back and relax while our guest presenters share both Pre and Post Pandemic travel adventures. We hope you will join us for another terrific series of Incredible Journeys before you head off to your favourite destination. Bon Voyage!

October 4th - The Boarding Pass Mystery Tour

Kate wasted no time coming out of Covid to take some bucket-list trips and special adventures. Fasten your seatbelts as we take off on a whirlwind photographic tour of some beautiful places around the world. Who knows where you'll touch down next!

Kate Weiss, former Executive Director of North Shore ElderCollege Society, avid traveller and current Travel Consultant with Expedia Cruises.

October 11th – Circumnavigating Australia with Wayne Hanna

In August 2017 Wayne and Marga Hanna began a two-month adventure to circumnavigate Australia. Canada's population may, largely, be along the 49th Parallel but the 25 million inhabitants of Australia largely live on the edges of this large island. Join Wayne and Marga as they remember their exploration of the Outback, the Wine regions in the East and the West, an Aboriginal community, the Great Australian Bite and the 12 Apostles.

Marga Hanna is a retired University Professor, Art Therapist and Trauma Therapist. For two years in the mid-nineties, she taught/coordinated the Art Therapy program at the University of Western Sydney where she fell in love with Australia and yearned to one day explore its vast and varied landscape and history.

Wayne Hanna is a retired Organization Development Consultant who worked for a number of international organizations throughout the world and had the opportunity to visit Marga while she was working in Australia.

While Marga worked in Australia they did extensive diving on and around the Great Barrier Reef in Northern Queensland, where an astoundingly colour-rich world of sea creatures, coral reefs and under water plant life rewarded them. Fulfilling their dream of one day traversing the entire continent, they finally set off in 2017, twenty years later, to begin and end their travel adventures in Sidney, New South Wales.

October 18th - Exploring the Pura Vida Life: Dr Susanne Sunell

Costa Rica is known for its beaches, rainforests, volcanos, biodiversity, and friendly people! In fact, the people have often been rated as the ‘happiest’ people in the world, and they are very proud of that. It is a place where you come to spend time in nature, and if you enjoy plants, birds, animals, and beaches you will likely wish to come back. The phrase ‘Pura Vida’ (literally translated as the Pure Life) reflects the optimistic and happy attitude that permeates daily life in Costa Rica. “What would you like Canadians to know about Costa Rica?” This was my anchor question in the 28 interviews I conducted in the spring of 2023 to gain the views of Ticos (Costa Ricans) ranging from 18 to 65 years of age. Come explore this fascinating country, the Little Switzerland of Central America, through the eyes of its people.

Susanne Sunell, BA, MA, EdD is almost retired after 48 years in the dental hygiene profession as a clinician, educator, administrator, researcher, and consultant. Susanne first visited Costa Rica in 1987 and has been living there in the winter for the past 12 years. She and her husband are now considered as family by several Costa Rican “families.”

October 25th - The Otherworldly Landscapes of Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon

While road trips might now seem “so 2020” their revival has been unquestioned for simplicity, fun, and expense and not to mention keeping track of your luggage! Join Mary as the rubber hits the road to tour a couple of American National Park wonders – Zion National Park, and Bryce Canyon, each unique, and frankly out of this world as geological wonders. While the Grand Canyon is a well-known and frequent add on to a Las Vegas trip, both Zion and Bryce are within manageable driving distance, offering the perfect 2-3 day detoxing respite to restore your craving for the great outdoors. Or simply fly into Vegas on the cheap, rent a car, and head for the hills! Learn about the best day hikes to accommodate all fitness levels, the history and geology, plus recommendations on where to stay. And of course, be blown away at the scenery!

Mary Charleston is well known to ElderCollege as a freelance travel writer and blogger based in North Vancouver, Canada. A marketing speaker, author and consultant by trade, but an adventure traveler and writer by passion, she pursues her love of story and travel tips in publications such as the Globe and Mail, Huffington Post, the Vancouver Sun and the Province, in addition to her travel blog CarryOnQueen.com.

Meet Our Local Authors Lecture Series
Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 am (September 26- October 24)

This fall we will have five local authors discuss their writing – diverse stories covering the worst industrial accident in Vancouver’s history; stories of bravery and commitment of those who risk their lives to rescue others; tales of intrigue and mystery; and of one woman’s courage to leave her restrictive Mormon family and make a life of her own.

- **Eric Jamieson – September 26th**

Eric Jamieson revisits the worst industrial accident in the history of Vancouver in his book *Tragedy at Second Narrows: The Story of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge*, a gripping work informing the reader of the fascinating world of big-time bridge building. Mr. Jamieson digs into the colossal errors that led to the collapse of the bridge 65 years ago. A career banker, he has also doubled as a freelance writer for several decades, writing outdoor articles and gradually switching to historical subjects and has won a Lieutenant- Governor’s Medal for historical Writing. He is also the co-author of *South Pole: 900 Miles on Foot*.

- **Lisa Anne Smith - October 3rd**

Lisa Anne Smith was a volunteer in the Education Department at the Museum of Vancouver for 12 years. She is still actively involved with the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum (the oldest building in Vancouver) as co-owner and custodian. Lisa will present “Through My Window” – a presentation covering the books she has written – *The Joe Fortes Story* (with Barbara Walters); *Vancouver Is Ashes*; *Emily Patterson: The Heroic Life of a Milltown Nurse* and *Hastings Mill: The Historic Time of a Vancouver Community*. She has also published a children’s book about the RCMP ship, the *St. Roch*. She lives with her husband and two children in Vancouver.

- **Cathalynn Labonte-Smith – October 10th**

Rescue Me takes us behind the scenes of some of North America’s riskiest search and rescue operations. Author Cathalynn Labonté-Smith shares real-life stories as told by volunteer members of Search and Rescue teams, who find the lost and rescue the injured in the most extreme conditions and situations the wilds of North America throw at them. Labonté-Smith uncovers everyday dangers, from the unexpected risks of familiar urban settings to the extreme conditions in North America’s wilderness.

- **Karen Dodd – October 17th**

Author of the Nicoló Moretti Crime Thriller series and the Stone Suspense novels, Karen was born in Sussex, England and immigrated to Canada as a child. She now lives in a tiny seaside village on the west coast of British Columbia. *Scare Away the Dark*, the second book in her Stone Suspense series, won the Chanticleer CLUE Award. She is past president of the North Shore Writers' Association and current president of the Canada West chapter of Sisters in Crime.

- **Maggie Rayner - October 24th**

Maggie Rayner's memoir, *In Polygamy's Shadow: From Mormon Childhood to a Life of Choice*, chronicles her ultimate choice at 18 between family and freedom and is endorsed by Craig Jones, lead council for the Attorney General of British Columbia in the 2011 case against polygamy in Bountiful. An entrepreneur, with a background in marketing and law, Maggie writes a story of strength and courage. Her second book, *Borrowed Trousers*, is her father's journal of his Mormon mission in Texas and Louisiana. Maggie is a current member of the False Creek writers' group on Granville Island.

Outdoor Learning

Participants provide their own transportation and meet at the location. All of the outdoor programs require a moderate level of fitness, and full mobility is required. These programs take place outside on natural terrain, with some steep and uneven ground. Programs will proceed rain or shine, so dress accordingly. Walking poles and sturdy footwear are recommended. This fall we are offering the following:

Mushroom Walk – Tuesday, October 17th – 10:00 – 11:30 am

Come join us for an outdoor walk at the foot of Mt Seymour with Mycologist Sharmin who will guide us through the world of mushrooms. Wear weather appropriate clothing and sturdy walking shoes, good trail some uneven terrain. Meet at the BC Parks Heritage Centre, 1620 Mt. Seymour Road

What's News

Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (September 14 – December 14)

Is it fact or is it fake? Are you interested in news and current affairs? Here's your chance to engage in discussion with others about what is happening in our world and is reported in the media. If you'd like to learn about what's going on, share your opinion about current events, or help distinguish facts from fake news, please join us. New participants are always welcome.