

# WINTER 2019 BROCHURE FOR WEBSITE

## STUDY GROUPS

### LIVING IN THE AGE OF PLASTIC

**Monday a.m. 9:30 – 11:30**

**January 21 – April 1 (no classes on February 18, Family Day)**

**Moderators: Herman Sahrman, Russ Knight**

Why do we use so much plastic? Could we get along without it? We have come to rely on lightweight, durable, cheaply produced plastics for disposable medical devices, food packaging, water bottles, mobile phones, automobiles, and construction materials. But plastic waste is an environmental hazard, polluting our water, food and air. Let's explore how we can enjoy the benefits of plastic while reducing its risks.

**Possible topics:** clothing from nylons to space suits, diapers, plastic shopping bags, medical devices – specify, robots, building materials from linoleum to counter tops, shoes and soles, dishes and tumblers; our drinking straws, fertility problems, microbeads in toothpaste.

### DICTATORS

**Monday p.m. 1:30 – 3:30**

**January 21 – April 1 (no classes on February 18, Family Day)**

**Moderators: Sandra Morton, Linda Vandusen**

Throughout history, dictators have ruled with an iron fist, attempting to annihilate their enemies and oppress their people in a grab for absolute power. From Nazi despot Adolf Hitler to Cambodia's genocidal leader Pol Pot to modern day Bashar al-Assad and Kim Jong-un, we will examine the life and times of notorious dictators, past and present.

**Possible topics:** Stalin, Muammar Qaddafi, Franco, Mussolini, Trujillo, Pinochet, Ferdinand Marcos, Batista, Idi Amin, Ho Chi Minh, Robert Mugabe, Manuel Noriega, dictatorship of the proletariat, conditions that encourage dictatorships

### BEST LOVED BOOKS

**Tuesday a.m. 9:30 - 11:30**

**January 22 - March 26**

**Moderators: Jane Skinner and Shelley Sorgini**

Is there a beloved book that you've turned to again and again? Or perhaps a special book has stayed in your thoughts over the years. If so, please join us for Best Loved Books. Participants read a short passage from their chosen book: describe the plot, theme, characters; tell about the author's life and work; and explain why you love this book – without revealing the ending.

**Possible topics:** Any book you enjoyed from the classics, romance, science fiction, sports themes, history, humour, politics, natural world, travel, biographies and autobiographies, the arts.

## **THE MUSIC MAKERS**

**Tuesday p.m. 1:30 - 3:30**

**January 22 - March 26**

**Moderators: Jeff Keenor and Lynn Hamilton**

The group will discuss great composers and their work – classical, operatic, rock, jazz, rap or any body of musical work. Presenters will be encouraged to make available a sample of their chosen composer's work that the group can hear, and provide information about the composer's life and the success of his/her work, along with information about style and form.

**Possible topics:** The life and music of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Verdi, Beethoven, Mozart, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, Elton John/Bernie Taupin, Lennon/McCartney, Bob Dylan, Rodgers/Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, Irving Berlin, John Williams, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Johnny Mercer, Hoagy Carmichael, Cole Porter.

## **THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

**Wednesday p.m. 1:30 – 3:30**

**January 23 – March 27**

**Moderators: Ljuba Gerow, Bob Gerow**

The Ottoman Empire was a state that controlled much of south eastern Europe, western Asia and northern Africa between the 14<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. How was it formed? Who and what drove expansion? What were the short- and long-term impacts on the lands and people it controlled? What has it become and what is its influence in international affairs?

**Possible topics:** Osman 1, Battle of Nicopolis, naval strength, Suleiman the Magnificent, trade, slavery, freedom of religion, Siege of Vienna, Sultanate of Women, astronomy, class structure, impact of World War I, Armenian genocide, Holy Warriors, art, architecture, science, Janissaries, the fall of Constantinople, the Grand Bazaar, carpets, Topkapi Palace, taxation, Barbarossa, the Haram, Roxolana, legal system, fratricide, impact of sea trade routes, the sick man of Europe, Ataturk.

## **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

**Thursday a.m. 9:30 – 11:30**

**January 24 – March 28**

**Moderators: Gary Shawyer, Jim Easton**

Social Movements such as Me Too, civil rights and Arab Spring occur when people come together with shared concerns. They intend to bring about lasting effects by encouraging change in their society or by resisting the powers that be. What are some of the social movements that have developed in the past or exist today? Where did they start, and how did they succeed, fail, or change society?

**Possible topics:** conditions that bring about a social movement, early social movements such as abolition and women's suffrage, later movements such as Occupy, pro-life, pro-choice, anti-war, green movement, feminism, democracy and social movements, stages of a social movement, social movements and democracy, social movements in non-western countries.

## **POTPOURRI – ANYTHING GOES**

Thursday p.m. 1:30-3:30

January 24 – April 4 (no class February 14; Founders' Luncheon)

**Moderators: Brenda Jackson and Roy Hind**

The field is wide open for any topic you think will challenge the intellect, tickle the funny bone, provoke controversy, stimulate discussion or just keep us informed. Do you have some insight that you have always wanted to share with others? Here you will have an attentive and appreciative audience.

## **THE COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND VIOLENCE**

Friday a.m. 9:30 - 11:30

January 25 - March 29

**Moderators: Michael Johnson and Douglas Leighton**

The world's religions have been used both to perpetrate and support, and to oppose and repudiate, violence. Has violence in the name of religion ever solved a problem? Why do we keep repeating history?

**Possible topics:** disciplining children, familial relationships, sexuality, capital punishment, genocide, territorial occupation, exclusivism, nationalism, cultural assimilation, warfare and "just" wars, country-specific eruptions of religious violence, clashes of faith, pacifism, anti-violence and non-violence.

## **FAMOUS OR INFAMOUS ... COUPLES WORTH CONSIDERING**

Friday p.m. 1:30 – 3:30

January 25 – March 29

**Moderators: Diana Lloyd, Susan Collins**

History books are filled with the exploits of individual heroes and heroines. How about stories of accomplished or notorious **couples**? Caesar and Cleopatra, June Carter and Johnny Cash, Pierre and Maggie, Scott and Tessa, Barack and Michelle Obama – what famous couple catches your fancy and has a story worth retelling? Join us as we reflect on the contributions of these dynamic duos.

**Possible topics:** Victoria and Albert, Samson and Delilah, Napoleon and Josephine, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Elizabeth and Phillip, Barry and Honey Sherman, Mary and Christopher Pratt, Marie and Pierre Curie, Edward VII and Wallis Simpson.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND POLICIES

In the spirit of fairness for both current and new members and also to reduce the workload of our volunteer registration staff, we are making the following changes to the registration process:

- Registration opens upon distribution of the brochure.
- All registrations received in the office after the brochure is distributed will be placed in the order received, but will not be processed until after the Program Preview.
- At the Program Preview, AFTER the presentations are over, completed registration forms will be reviewed by an Ambassador for completeness before payment will be accepted.
- Registration forms will then be numbered in the order the reviewed form and payment are received by the Treasurer.
- After the Program Preview, the office will interleave those received at the Program Preview with those received prior, thus assuring a level playing field for both current and new members and keeping volunteer work at a minimum.

After the Program Preview, all registration forms with payment can be sent either by mail or dropped off in the SLR locked mailbox located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor foyer of Grosvenor Lodge. They can also be handed in at the Open House. (For the date, time and location of the Program Preview and Open House, see the [Mark Your Calendars](#) section in the brochure and/or visit [www.slrlondon.ca](http://www.slrlondon.ca).)

Credit card, cheque or cash payments are all acceptable at Program Previews and Open Houses. Cheques are acceptable at all times and are made payable to [SLR London](#).

Note: We are unable to process post-dated cheques. Please do not send cash through the mail.

Registration is complete only when full payment has been received by SLR.

## MAILING ADDRESS

**Society for Learning in Retirement**  
**Grosvenor Lodge**  
**1017 Western Road**  
**London, ON N6G 1G5**  
**519-438-3525**  
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[www.slrlondon.ca](http://www.slrlondon.ca)

## CO-REGISTRATION POLICY

To guarantee a place in a Study, Activity or Discussion Group, payment is required for each course at time of registration. If, however, there is space available in another course you would like to take AND you have already registered and paid for at least one course of equal or higher value, you may apply for the additional course AT OR AFTER the Open House or Program Preview at no charge by going to the Co-Registration table to submit your request. You may also make your application by email or telephone at any time following the Open House or Program Preview.

Applications will be processed the week prior to term commencement and all applicants will be contacted as to the status of their applications.

## **REFUND POLICY**

No refunds are issued for annual membership fees.

If SLR cancels a program, a full refund is issued.

Refunds will be issued if a withdrawal occurs prior to the commencement of the program. Refunds are subject to a \$5.00 administration fee.

No refunds will be issued after the first week of classes.

Exceptions will be considered for medical or compassionate reasons.