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Coastal eNews

A newsletter of Coastal Senior College, Newcastle, Maine

Enriching lives through the joy of lifelong learning

Issue #137, February 2022

Volunteer needed to help with the

HELP WANTED website. We'll show you how to do this! Contact: volunteering@coastalseniorcollege.org

In this issue



John Ward, Spring course preview, p. 2

"What We're Reading," review by Paul Kando, p. 2



22 book suggestions!

A valentine from instructors, p. 4



Spring walks planned!
p. 3



"Winter" Brown Bags reminder, p. 3

Coastal Senior College Annual Meeting

will be held in late May by Zoom. Watch for an announcement by email and on the webpage. Covid has forced us to change our plans for an in-person celebration for this year.

Save the Dates!

Spring courses listed on website: **February 28**

Course registration: **March 14, 8:00 a.m.**

———— **Spring term begins: APRIL 5** ————

Notes from the president



Dear Members and Friends:

Those of you who know me personally know that my energy is usually high and my glass more than half full (wine doesn't count). But, as I thought about the preparations for Spring term, I was beginning to count the negatives. We are not offering lots of in-person classes and, as a result, those of us who thought we would take the Spring term off will be back Zooming again. (Thanks to those who were able to volunteer!) Students were asking when professor x was going to teach again and were complaining that they had run out of ideas of things to read. Enough of the negatives! I talked with my colleagues and began to think positively again.

I wrote to the faculty and asked for reading suggestions. The response was overwhelming. They miss their students. Thank you, faculty members!

What to do with all those responses? Sara Shute, the editor of the eNews, enthusiastically endorsed the idea of a Valentine's Day special edition, full of affection and hope. She had to revamp her usual format. Please consider the reading list a Valentine from your faculty. Thank you, Sara!

I consulted Jayne Gordon who facilitates the Brown Bag series about something we might do outside if covid permits. Jayne is an inveterate hiker; mention a place and she'll tell you where to walk. You'll find a message from Jayne in this issue about a plan for Spring walks. Thank you, Jayne!

For me writing this letter was like planting micro greens – those small greens are not exactly head lettuce, but a taste of things to come.

Stay safe!

Maryanne Ward



Spring course schedule

John Ward, Chair,
Curriculum Committee

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" Good question, Mr. Shelley. And the answer is a confident "no." Indeed, not far at all; we're just about ready to go. The Curriculum Committee of your CSC has reviewed and approved **11 courses** for offering in the Spring 2022 term so far and is confident that we have a good array of interesting options for you. CSC faculty will give courses on poetry (Welsh poets, Robert Frost), drama (the Bard of Stratford-on-Avon), the arts of sketching and creative writing, Henry David Thoreau, artificial intelligence, the origins of the mystery story, consistency v. power, and more. So, even as we experience the familiar pleasures and inconveniences of our Maine winter, we are fully prepared to break out into happy collaborative conversation about topics that matter. Shelley bemoaned his wintry, desperate state with an extravagant lament: "I fall on the thorns of life! I bleed!" We won't let that happen. The catalog will go online **February 28, 2022** and registration will start on **March 14, 2022**. Get ready to join us once again.



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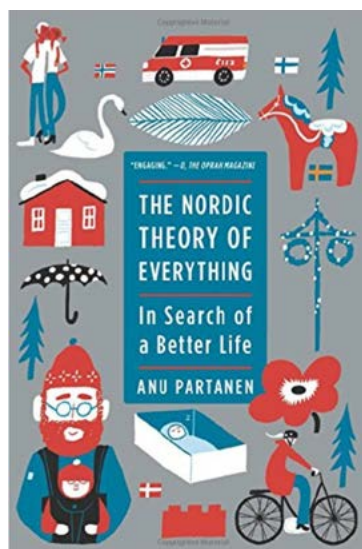
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What We're Reading

Finnish-American journalist Anu Partanen's ***The Nordic Theory of Everything: In Search of a Better Life*** (Harper, 2016) is one of the most hopeful books I've read in a long time. Focusing on four key relationships—parents and children, men and women, employ-



ers and employees, and government and citizens—the book argues that, rather than the Nordic countries—Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Iceland—being "socialist nanny states," it is we Americans, who are more enmeshed in unhealthy dependencies (some of which, alas, turn out to be based on half-truths or worse).

In fact, citizens of the Nordic countries enjoy more individual freedom and independence than we Americans do. As one whose work has exposed me to life in all of Scandinavia but Iceland, I heartily agree. Discussing this book would be timely, especially now that our own democracy is seriously threatened by an increasingly violent minority egged on by internet-amplified falsehoods and demagoguery.

This book is no polemic. It simply compares ways of living, cultures, and comes to the realization that the viability of all relationships (including any policy implications) ultimately depends on the maturity of the individual *participants*, rather than adherence to doctrines, traditions, ideology, beliefs, or followership.

—Paul Kando, Instructor

Have a book(s) you'd like to review for the newsletter? Please contact Sara:
enews@coastalseniorcollege.org



Winter Brown Bag Series (on Zoom)

Research, Resilience, Responsiveness,
Resourcefulness, Results:
Our Coastal Community

—Noontime—

FEBRUARY 28: Skidompha Library

MARCH 7: Darling Marine Center

**MARCH 14: Coastal Maine
Botanical Gardens**

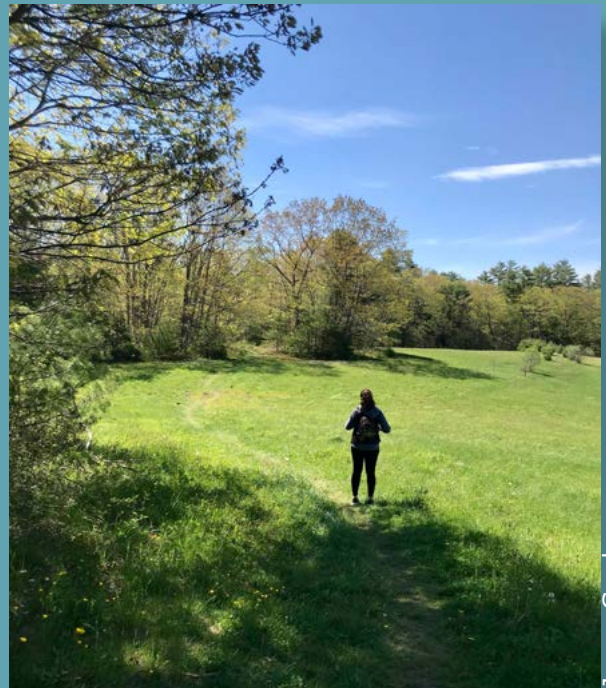
MARCH 21: Lincoln Theater

See website for details

Spring: Brown Bag Walks

Covid permitting, we will bring our brown bag gatherings outside later this spring. I am planning some noon-time walks for May and June. Check the CSC website after April 1, and be on the lookout for an email to members.

Jayne Gordon
CSC VP and
Activities Committee Chair



Jayne Gordon



Making the best of it!

Senior College students making the best of the pandemic, and winter, with zoom classes.

Shown here: members of Maryanne Ward's (top left) class, "E.M. Forster and Virginia Woolf: Bookends of the Early Modern Novel."

Coastal Senior College instructors were recently asked to recommend a good book as a way of sending a Valentine to the community, and, if they chose, to add a sentence about their choice. Here are their responses:

Fiction

GEORGE TERRIEN. Alan Isler, *The Prince of West Avenue*, 1994.

GEOFF ROBINSON. Daniel Mason, *The Winter Soldier*, 2018. "The tale of a young medical student's tribulations on the front lines during the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire."

PAUL SOMOZA. Louise Penny, *A Fatal Grace*, 2006. "Penny's emphasis on relationships, both family and professional, makes her books much more engaging than the typical mystery books."

TED WILLIAMS. Martin Walker, *Bruno, Chief of Police*, 2008. "In a time of forced isolation, what could be better than the food, wine, and countryside of southern France?"

Nonfiction

ARNE AHO. Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick and Stone*, 1984 "balances history, art, and technology."

LUCIE BAUER. David Graeber and David Wen-grow, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, 2021. "This fascinating and liberating revision of the familiar stories about humanity's past reclaims the profound influence of Indigenous perspectives on European thought."

CHARMARIE BLAISDELL. Matthew Gabriele & David Perry, *The Bright Ages: A New History of Medieval Europe*, 2021.

JOSEPH COTÉ. James Shapiro, *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606*, 2015.

ALICE DASHIELL. Lea Wait, *Living and Writing on the Coast of Maine*, 2015. "The writers in my memoir writing classes enjoyed Lea's book and her visit to our class."

BRETT DONHAM. *Towards a New Architecture* by Le Corbusier. "First published as a book in 1923, this was a revolutionary and inspiring call for an architecture that represented the new post-war modern era."

ANDREW FENNIMAN. Kate Murphy, *You're Not Listening: What You're Missing and Why It Matters*, 2020. "Because we can always be better listeners."

JAYNE GORDON. Louise Dickinson Rich, *We Took to the Woods*, 1942. "A classic about living in the wilds of Maine."

STEPHEN HAHN. I am looking forward to teaching again soon, with a course titled "Mill Stories." One book that I would recommend is *Papa Martel*, 1961, by Gérard Robichaud.

CAROLINE JANOVER. Marie Benedict & Victoria Murray, *The Personal Librarian*, 2021. "A well-researched, true-life story of a black woman who pretended to be white so she could be hired by J.P. Morgan."

KAY TOBLER LISS. H. D. Thoreau, *The Maine Woods*, 1864. "One of the best books to make 'contact, contact!' with the nature of Maine."

LARRY MAYER. Virginia Postrel, *The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World*, 2021. "All about cloth."

ANN NESSLAGE. Robert MacFarlane, *The Wild Places*, 2008. "Part of the tradition of British walker-writers, MacFarlane searches for the remaining wild places in Britain."

STEVEN PIKER & PAUL DOHERTY. Deborah & James Fallows, *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, 2019. "Tocquevillian trek (by private plane) in search of (and finding plenty of!) goodness and wholesomeness in American life."

BOB RACKMALES. Fredrik Logevall, *JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century*, 2020. "Logevall deepens our understanding, not only of JFK himself and his remarkable family, but of the social and political forces that shaped them, and us, at a crucial time in our history."

BRUCE ROCKWOOD. Elizabeth Kolbert, *Under a White Sky*, 2021.

SUSAN VAN ALSENOY. Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*, 2019.

RUDOLPH WINKES. "Subscribe to 'Archaeology' magazine! It contains well-written articles by professional archaeologists about new discoveries all over the world."