

May 16, 2016

Dear History Club members,

The purpose of this off-season notice is three-fold, but I first want to note Bill Reader's recent death. As we know, Bill was not only a valued member of the History Club, but of OLLI too. I was on the Board of Directors with Bill, and invariably his comments to a discussion were right on. Bill's classes were many and stimulating, and he was always willing to present at our meetings. In addition, being in a class with Bill was a learning experience too; his fund of knowledge added to any class discussion. He will be sorely missed.

1. At the end of this email I am inserting a request from Peg O'Brien for any of you who would like to contribute to a Fall 2016 course on "Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle." Peg and Camille Hodges are looking for someone to participate in the session titled "Freedom Summer." Details below.

2. I also want to take advantage of this opportunity to ask for volunteers to give a presentation at one of our meetings next year. As you know, the interests of our History Club members are wide-ranging and take in everything from knowledge of a specific historical figure, to an interesting and new take on an event in history. All subjects are welcome, from Medieval to Modern (or Beowulf to Virginia Woolf, as they say in English literature circles).

3. Please send your book reviews to Tom Hady, [tfhady@verizon.net](mailto:tfhady@verizon.net) by JUNE 15. To make it easy for Tom, please follow this format:

Author, title, (year of publication), reviewed by (your name) and then a text of the review.

Tom gives the following example:

"Webster, Noah, The American Spelling Book (1789) by Thomas Jefferson.

Webster's spelling book represented a new approach to spelling the English Language..."

Since there is so much information in this email, I will send it as an attachment and post it on Doc Store under History Club.

Have a good summer! Peg O'Brien's full request re: the Fall 2016 course on "Created Equal" is given below.

Beth

We are creating a Fall 2016 Course on “Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle” using the video resources from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The description of the course is at the end of this email.

We are looking for a presenter to participate in the session titled “Freedom Summer.” This presenter would facilitate a discussion on voter registration using various clips from the “Freedom Summer” video.

The session will be on Wed. Oct 19, 2016 from 9:40 am to 11:05 am at the Lord of Life Church on Twinbrook Rd. in Fairfax

We would appreciate it if you could reach out to the OLLI history club to see if anyone would be interested in facilitating this discussion.

Peg O’Brien  
mazob@live.com  
703-370-0486

“Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle”      Fall 2016

The “Created Equal Initiative” was created in 1963 by the National Endowment for the Humanities as a vehicle to mark the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Part of its purpose is to “encourage members of communities to revisit the history of civil rights in America and to reflect on the ideals of freedom and equality that have helped bridge deep racial and cultural divides. “

The goals of this 8-week course are to discuss selected past civil rights events and compare/contrast them with present-day as well as projected future issues in society. The format will consist of exploratory questions, selected film clips, and guided discussions with the audience as major participants. Sessions will be facilitated by GMU professors, OLLI members, and representatives of community groups that contribute to promoting civil rights in the community, the state, and the nation.

Video content provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities resource will be “Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle”: The Abolitionists, Slavery by Another Name, The Loving Story, Freedom Riders and Freedom Summer. “Additional contributions are provided by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Coincidentally, this course will begin during the time frame of the official opening of the New African American History Museum on September 24, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

