



Endacott Society

Retired Faculty and Staff endacottsociety.org **March 2020**



Featured News

Spring Break

The Adams Alumni Center is mostly closed for Spring Break March 9 to 13. All but one Endacott activity normally in that week have been rescheduled or canceled. Please note different times and dates at each event and on the calendar. Check the Endacott website for any updates.

March Madness

March Madness is the theme of many of our presentations this month. While a nod to the enduring greatness of the KU basketball program, it provides an opportunity to highlight this prominent dramatic theme, so well-captured in many art forms and the basis of many major works, including, **Long and Enduring Art!** For March Madness, it is truly sheer lunacy for us to schedule a foreign film, Jan Troell's *The Emigrants*, that clocks in at 191 minutes, and an opera, Sergei Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, that runs for 210 minutes! We have early start times, and provide specialty lunches for \$5 contribution, in order to show these formidable masterpieces. Details at event listings.

All About Our Old Time Radio Series

John Nicholson, who hosts our Old Time Radio listening group, grew up with TV. He didn't know that radio had been the major source of home entertainment for nearly five decades. He discovered, accidentally, only in his mid-twenties, that radio was much more than music.

One Sunday afternoon in 1974, he was painting walls in a room at home, turned on the radio, and heard a science fiction story. He had missed the introduction and the first several minutes, so he

listened for nearly an hour before learning that he had just heard *War of the Worlds* from 1938. There was a discussion of the panic it had

caused, and John was relieved, and then totally fascinated. He followed the Sunday program for several weeks.

When it was announced that a group of listeners were meeting to discuss collecting radio shows, John went, and became a founding member of The Radio Historic



Orson Welles Rehearsing *War of the Worlds*, Oct 1938

Association of Colorado. The group traded reel-to-reel tapes with collectors outside of Colorado. John amassed his early collection of over 10,000 episodes and devoured most of the books that were beginning to be written about these old radio shows.

On tapings from broadcasts, the sound quality was usually not very good. As copies were made, the quality often deteriorated even further. Nonetheless, the fans persisted.

By the 1990s, reel-to-reel and cassette tapes had mostly given way to CDs. With original transcription disks of shows being found, and digital editing and noise reduction capabilities on the rise, the listening quality of most episodes could be greatly improved. Mp3s reigned for a while, but now have been supplanted by even better quality-preserving files. Frequently, episodes are transferred to mp3 for ease of personal use.

Now, most show trading is done via cloud-based storage access. John's collection has continued to grow. He currently is a member of five Old Time Radio organizations, and has about 200,000 shows. These include nearly complete runs of *The Lone Ranger*, *Fibber McGee & Molly*, *Superman*, *Suspense*, and many other shows. Many of the shows ran for over 30 years, a testament to the longevity and popularity of this major entertainment format. Among John's favorite shows are *Suspense*, *X Minus One*, *The Six Shooter*, *The Mysterious Traveler*, and *Fibber McGee & Molly*.

John spends about 20 hours per week on Old Time Radio: ten hours listening to and reviewing old radio shows for presentation and just for enjoyment; five hours communicating and trading with other collectors; and several hours reading books on Old Time Radio. He has given many talks on Old Time Radio to groups of seniors, including at nursing homes. Even his own children were not immune: they all memorized the famous *Who's on First* routine for school events!

Once a month, on the last Monday from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, John hosts the Endacott Society Old Time Radio group, usually in the Music room. Each month features a different theme, with information and commentary accompanying listening. Topics so far have included World War II, Madness and Insanity, Science Fiction, Comedy, Soap Opera, Westerns, Fairy Tales and Hard-Boiled Detectives. There are many, many more. We look forward to your joining us whenever you can to meet and also enjoy snacks reminiscent of the era. Drop in and share your memories with the group!

Cinema Studies

• Documentary Film

Paul Lim, plim@ku.edu

Friday Mar 6–1:30

Between the years 1933 and 1939, over 800 Jewish members of the German film industry would flee the Nazis and make their way to Hollywood. *Cinema's Exiles: From Hitler to Hollywood* explores the personal and professional experiences of emigres like Billy Wilder, Fritz Lang, Franz Waxman and others who sought refuge in America and enriched our lives. Narrated by Sigourney Weaver. 2008, 117 minutes. Babka cakes and light refreshments at 1:15; artistic freedom at 1:30.

• Domestic Film

Fred Madaus, fmadaus@ku.edu

No program in March.

Future Event—Save the date! Tuesday Apr 14–1:30 The movie *Desiree*.

★ • Foreign Film

Rich Ring, richring@ku.edu

Paul Lim, plim@ku.edu

Tuesday Mar 31–12:30 Note Early

Start Time and Available Lunch

Between now and November, we will be showing films about different immigrant groups in America, starting with Jan Troell's 1971 epic, *The Emigrants*, featuring Liv Ullman and Max von Sydow as a Swedish couple embarking on a journey from Småland, Sweden, to put down roots in mid-19th-century Minnesota. *The Emigrants* won international acclaim, and was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. 191 minutes, Swedish with English subtitles. Lunch at 12:15, sea voyage at 12:30, dessert at intermission. Sign up at Wednesday Coffee or email plim@ku.edu for your lunch choice of regular or vegetarian meatballs with noodles for a \$5 contribution. After the program, DVD copies of *The New Land*, the 1972 sequel to *The Emigrants*, will be distributed free to the audience.



Computer and Technology Studies

Alan Swarts, aswarts25@gmail.com

Wednesdays–9:00

Mar 04–Maker Spotlight: Arduino—Dave Mannering

Mar 11—No program

Mar 18–Technology Issues Forum: Controlling AI

Mar 25–Maker Spotlight: Raspberry Pi—Richard Kershenbaum

Drama Study

Omofolaba Ajayi-Soyinka, omofala@ku.edu

Betty Baron, baronbetty@yahoo.com

Tuesdays Mar 3, 17–1:30

Saturday Mar 21–7:30 pm

March 03—Reading of *Not All Canoes Sail Back Home* by Femi Osofisan; discussion of KU's *As You Like It*.

March 17—*Not All Canoes Sail Back Home* discussion; and clips from Kennedy Center Production.

Mar 21—See *Indecent* at KU William Inge Memorial Theatre.

Endacott Afternoon Speaker Series

• Armchair Travel

Ron Schorr, rwwschorr@gmail.com

No Armchair Travel in March.

Future Event—Save the date! Thursday Apr 9—The Altai Republic in Siberia.

• Arts & Sciences Lecture

Mary Jane Dunlap, mjdunlap@ku.edu

Karen Heintzen, heintzen@ku.edu

Future Events—Save the dates! Thursday Apr 30—Immigration in Kansas; Thursday May 14—Biography of Kansas naturalist and pioneering museum specialist, Charles Bunker.

★ • Public Affairs Forum

Tom Huber, lexington1@gmail.com

Thursday Mar 19–1:30 Note Change in Date

The speaker at the next session of Endacott's Public Affairs Forum will be Lisa Larsen, Lawrence City Commissioner and Lawrence Mayor through completion of her term in December 2019. Lisa will speak to us about current challenges facing city government. Don't miss it! Light refreshments at 1:15.

Evening Program and Potluck Dinner

Linda Mullens, lmullens@ku.edu

Thursday Mar 26–5:30pm

Wine and cheese at 5:30pm, 6:00pm dinner, 6:45pm program.

Our speaker is Jeanne Klein. Her presentation is *Woman Suffrage in Lawrence, 1854-1920*. Please sign up for this event by Wednesday, Mar 18, and indicate what food you will bring. Meat is furnished. You can use the signup sheet during Wednesday Coffee or by emailing or calling Linda Mullens.

Future Event—Save the date! Thursday May 21.

Games Theory

Esther Smith, esther@ku.edu

Thursday Mar 19–1:00

Bridge, Scrabble, mahjong, chess, dominoes and Chinese checkers. All sets are provided. Sign up for games at Wednesday Coffee; or just show up and PLAY!

Garden Seminar

Cal and Jo Cink, CalvinCink@fac.bakeru.edu

Dick Schiefelbusch, rschief@ku.edu

Wednesdays Mar 4, 18, 25–9:00

Mar 11—No program.

Roundtable discussion of flora and fauna, with frequent video material.

★ Great Books Study

Rich Ring, richring@ku.edu

Ellen Reid Gold, e834@ku.edu

Wednesday Mar 18–1:30 Note Change in Date

The Great Books Group will meet in the Library to discuss four short-short stories by Latin American authors: *The Tree* (Maria Luisa Bombal, Chile, 1939); *Emma Zunz* (Jorge Luis Borges,

Argentina, 1949); *The Switchman* (Jose Juan Arreola, Mexico, 1952); and *The Walk* (Calvert Casey, Cuba, 1954). Ray Souza chose the stories, and will lead our discussion. The texts are all available online, mostly in PDF form. For more information contact Rich Ring.

Lunch Bunch

Alan Swarts, aswarts25@gmail.com

Ron Schorr, rwwschorr@gmail.com

Wednesdays Mar 4, 18, 25—about 11:15

Following our Coffee, Endacott members can meet for lunch at a Lawrence dining spot announced each week.

Movement Workshop

• Mid-Morning Meditation—New!

Judy Roitman, jroitman@ku.edu

Stan Lombardo, lombardo@ku.edu

Fridays Mar 6, 20—10:30

Learn basic meditation techniques, and share relaxing silence with others. After Tai Chi on 1st and 3rd Fridays.

• Piccolo Bocce

Dave Mannering, dmannering@yahoo.com

Monday, Mar 16—1:30

Piccolo O' Bocce Shamrock matches. A sign-up sheet will be available at the March 4 and 11 coffees.

Monday Mar 2—No Piccolo Bocce

• Tai Chi for Beginners—Now Weekly!

Haskell Springer, springer@ku.edu

David Hann, akansaswriter@yahoo.com

Fridays Mar 6, 20, 27—9:00

Mar 11—No Tai Chi

Tai Chi teaches better balance control. Wear loose clothing and soft shoes. All are welcome.

Music Appreciation

Susan Levine, susanlevine785@gmail.com

Paul Lim, plim@ku.edu

Friday Mar 27—10:30

In War & Peace: Harmony Through Music is Joyce DiDonato's groundbreaking 2017 concert at Gran Theatre del Liceu. It features Baroque arias by Handel, Purcell, Gesualdo, Strauss and others, each one breathtakingly staged by Ralf Pleger and choreographed by Manuel Palazzo. "Why can't more concerts be like this?" writes one critic. "It's DiDonato at her superlative best," writes another. 2017, 80 minutes.

Old-Time Radio

John Nicholson, wryterjccc@gmail.com

Monday Mar 30—1:30

For March, our theme is once again Madness and Insanity. We will listen to and discuss maddening episodes of *Suspense* and *Escape*, and a third unexpected show. We usually meet in the Music Room, and no reservations are necessary. Vintage crazy and impossible refreshments will be provided. Drop by and share your memories with us!

Future programs will feature humor, and World War II leading up to D-Day, to commemorate its 75th anniversary in June 2020.

★ Opera Study

Paul Lim, plim@ku.edu

Victor Wallace, wallace@ku.edu

Ted Johnson, jtj@ku.edu

Friday Mar 20--11:30 Note Early Start Time and Available Lunch

Sergei Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, based on Tolstoy's novel, is rarely performed or seen because it is 3 1/2 hours long. Thanks to March Madness, we are showing the spectacular 2000 Paris Opera production, featuring Nathan Gunn as Prince Andre, Olga Guryakova as Natacha, Robert Brubaker as Pierre, and Vassili Gerello as Napoleon. 2000, Russian, with English subtitles, 210 minutes. Lunch at 11:15, followed by romance and bloodshed; dessert at intermission. Sign up at Wednesday Coffee or email plim@ku.edu for your lunch choice of beef or vegetarian stroganoff for a \$5 contribution.



Out-of-Town Travel

Judy Niebaum, judyniebaum@gmail.com

David Marden, mardendl@gmail.com

No program in March.



Over 20 Endacott Members visited WWI Museum in KC in Jan. on Out-of-Town Travel trip.

Singing for Fun

Linda Mannering, lmanneringne@yahoo.com

Jim Woelfel, jameswoelfel@yahoo.com

Friday Mar 13—10:30

Special guests Charles and Laurie Higginson and Beth Dearing will lead us in singing Old Time songs. Do you remember the singalongs at Apple Valley Farm and those wonderful slapstick melodramas? The Higginsons, who performed with Ric Averill at AVF, are bringing lively music entertainment and songs. Beth, a well-known performer and mandolin player, will spice up the fun. This is another not-to-be-missed Singing For Fun program.

Ten O'Clock Scholars, AKA Wednesday Coffee

Susan Levine, susanlevine785@gmail.com

MaryKay Mahoney, mahoneym@merrimack.edu

Birthdays: Sharon Brown

Wednesdays Mar 4, 18, 25—10:00

Mar 11—10:00 Coffee at Dillon's, 6th & Wakarusa.

Conversation with coffee, tea, treats, announcements and special guests or programs. Bring a ground meat donation for the Campus Cupboard food pantry to our special Mar 4 "Meating." March Birthdays will be celebrated on the third Wednesday, Mar 18.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The University of Kansas

The Endacott Society
Adams Alumni Center
1266 Oread Avenue
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-3169

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Endacott Society

Newsletter Copy

Copy for the **April 2020 Newsletter** should be sent by or before **Saturday, March 14, 2020**, to Endacott@jrnvr.com.

Endacott Society Membership List and Online Services

Copies of the Endacott Society membership list may be obtained at the Wednesday Coffees. Members may subscribe to the Endacott e-mail list by sending a request to Endacott@gmail.com. For the Endacott Society Newsletter online, check the website endacottsociety.org and select the link to Newsletter or Calendar.

Dues

To be a member of the Endacott Society, one must have retired from KU or any accredited institution of higher learning. Sign up and remit dues as a member of the KU Alumni Association, designating a desire for Endacott Society membership. (Call 785 864-4760, asking for "records,"

or log in online at www.kualumni.org/join and click "Retired Faculty and Staff.") Retirees who want to join Endacott Society can do so at the cost of \$30. Spouses or partners can be added at no additional cost.

Contributions or memorial gifts in honor of current or deceased persons should be

paid directly to the Endacott Society in care of the Adams Alumni Center. These funds will be deposited in the Expressions of Appreciation Fund and can, if so designated, be used to support the Endacott Society's various activities throughout the year.