



Endacott Society

Retired Faculty and Staff endacottsociety.org October 2020



It hardly seems possible that 200 days have passed since the Alumni Center closed down and we were relegated to video images of each other in meetings on Zoom. Most of us would rather think about how soon it will be until a safe vaccine becomes available and when we can safely gather together across the table from each other for our Wednesday coffee hour. The Endacott Task Force had been visiting the Alumni Center in September by appointment only to box up scrapbooks, oral histories, books and other associated materials from our library and computer rooms. We need to store them for use during the year and a half of construction of the new Student Welcome Center and renovations of spaces in the current Alumni Center. We have also met on-line to discuss how the new space for our combined library/ computer room can be configured to best serve our needs. We also made a list of questions we have for the KU Alumni Association about availability of rooms for our activities. We hope to have more meetings with Heath Peterson, the president of the Alumni Association, for further discussions and to set a time for him to meet with as many of you as possible in a meeting of the Wednesday Coffee.—Jo Cink

In the meantime, we continue to enjoy each other's company in Zoom meetings of our various interest groups (15 of them at the moment). Tai Chi is still meeting outdoors by socially distanced participants led by Haskell

Springer. Here is a sample of what to expect in October. Check your Zoom Guide for links and other details for these and the other groups.

Paul Lim has outdone himself in planning for Cinema Studies for October. In his theme of "A Plaque of Dictators, a Fall of Tyrants" he not only is showing the **Documentary, Foreign, and Domestic Films**, but also a suite of three films he calls "**Early Voting Specials**" shown on three consecutive days (Oct 17-19). They include *The Last 4 Days of Mussolini* featuring Rod Steiger, Franco Zeffirelli's semi-autobiographical *Tea with Mussolin*, and a film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Richard III*, featuring Ian McKellen. He also has an offering called **Paul's Pick** on Friday Oct 30, of Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*, in which Chaplin plays dual roles of Adolph Hitler and a humble Jewish barber who is mistaken for Hitler. Email plim@ku.edu for the Zoom link.

For October, Great Books is celebrating National Book Month by reading and discussing Ray Bradbury's 1953 science-fiction classic *Fahrenheit 451*, about an America in which all books are actively sought out and burned by "firemen" and a secret resistance is determined to preserve this vital human heritage. For information about editions, check with Jim Woelfel.

Music Appreciation on Friday, October 23 will feature two outdoor summer concerts from Vienna. Renee Fleming in 2017 sings five arias and Anna

Netrebko in 2018 sings four arias. Paul Lim says it doesn't get better than this.

In the midst of a pandemic and a presidential election year, a new nonprofit online news service, **Kansas Reflector**, launched this July to cover Kansas government and politics. The editor-in-chief, Sherman Smith, will talk to **the Arts and Sciences Lecture** on Thursday, October 15 at 1:30 about the vision for this Topeka-based, nonpartisan public service, free to readers and other news outlets. He will answer questions about this new venture in Kansas journalism. Here is a link to view, or subscribe to this publication: <https://kansasreflector.com> Check the Zoom Guide for link to the lecture.

Drama Study meets on October 6, and 20 at 1:30 p.m. On October 6, there will be a film adaptation of Euripides *Bacchae* where Dionysus, the god of wine and ecstasy inflicted a tragic vengeance on King Pentheus, his cousin, and Agave, his mother, and Dionysius' aunt for their failure to acknowledge him as god. October 20, the study group meets to review and discuss future play selections.

Old-Time Radio plans a Halloween theme in October and will listen to the classic radio shows Blondie, Lights Out, and Our Miss Brooks on Monday the 26th.

A special happy birthday wish for all Endacott members who celebrate an October birthday.

We also remember the loss of Dick Schiefelbusch, a long-time member of the Endacott Society who passed away on September 23 at Presbyterian Manor at the age of 102. His ashes will be interred at Pioneer Cemetery at 2:00pm on October 5.

In the process of sorting through some materials in the Endacott Library for storage, I ran across a pamphlet published by AARP in 1971 entitled "Your Retirement Hobby Guide".

It includes a "baker's dozen" of hobbies but "none associated with the fields of collecting, since each one is worth a booklet in itself." I thought the list was interesting because some were hobbies I participate in myself but others never would have never entered my mind.

As enumerated, these hobbies are: 1. Shellcraft- the art of fashioning items from shells 2. Tape recording and exchanging tapes with others 3. Bird watching 4. Macrame'; trying your hand at ornamental knotting 5. Refunding- returns on purchase price of items from manufacturers and coupons of all sorts 6. Tinted bottles- choosing uniquely shaped bottles and setting them in the sun to change color 7. Pottery making 8. Marbles-heating them up in a pan at medium heat and dropping them into ice water to get internal cracking 9. Brass rubbings 10. Apple and vegetable carving 11. Mosaic art 12. Painting- pull up an easel instead of a rocking chair. 13. Windowsill greenhouse for an indoor garden.

My task as an ornithologist is often to untangle the mystery of a strange-colored bird that doesn't fit the descriptions in a friend's bird ID book. Fortunately, a photo often helps and Helen Martin, an Endacott member, provided one, after her initial description left me puzzled. Below in the upper right corner of the photo is a partial albino House Sparrow with white tail and wing feathers and a yellow bill (normally gray). - ---Cal Cink

