



# February 2025

Email: [endacottsociety@gmail.com](mailto:endacottsociety@gmail.com)

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Recently, I read a satirical book by the late David Lodge, *Changing Places* (1975). It parodies two professors, one from England and the other from California. Set in 1969, the two have just gone to each other's very different campuses for a six-month exchange. By the end of the novel, life – not just “place” – has changed dramatically (but also humorously) for both of them.

Lodge was himself a scholar and teacher. His fiction often poked fun at the academic world – with its eccentric people, entrenched traditions and arcane procedures, to which we can all relate. The ivory tower with its ivy-covered walls. But, like most of us, he also held that world in affectionate esteem. In *Nice Work* (1988), one of his characters asserts (“defiantly”) that “Universities are the cathedrals of the modern age. They shouldn't have to justify their existence by utilitarian criteria.”

“Is Lodge pulling our leg?”, you might ask. Perhaps he was. “How naïve, how absurd.” Others might say, more ominously: “How elitist, how radical, how subversive, how dangerous.”

There's no denying that KU and its peers – including those whose research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and other government agencies – are called upon daily to justify their existence and their cost.

Tell a politician, or an accountant, or the parents of prospective students that KU is a “cathedral” and watch how they respond. (Of course, there's no question that Allen Fieldhouse is a sanctuary for the faithful!)

Universities respond to utilitarian criteria with utilitarian data: economic impact analyses, quality of life tabulations, graduate employment statistics, funded research bar graphs, etc. Yes, we can advocate with great confidence for higher education on the basis of real, tangible results alone.

Don't be afraid to do that. But we mustn't forget – or be embarrassed – to also advocate based on the intangible outcomes: academic freedom, the persistent and scholarly search for truth, a just and equitable society, and fulfilled lives that are more than walking résumés. If you tremble just a little at the singing of the *alma mater*, or the playing of Elgar's “Pomp and Circumstance” – those hymns in our cathedral – then you know what Lodge's character meant – and perhaps you'll also “lift the chorus.”

--Kevin

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Evening Lecture and Potluck Dinner**  
**Thursday, March 20**

[Please see page 5 for information about the Campus Cupboard.](#)

## February Activities & Events

### Armchair Travel (Hybrid)

Ron Schorr [rwwschorr@gmail.com](mailto:rwwschorr@gmail.com)

Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm  
Adams Alumni Center

Richard Kershenbaum and Jenny Lattimore will present a travelog of their 2022 trip, starting in Stuttgart and on to the western Turkish cities of Antalya, Bursa, and Istanbul. A recording will be made for those who can't attend.

### Arts & Sciences Lecture Program

Kevin Boatright [kboatright@ku.edu](mailto:kboatright@ku.edu)

No program scheduled for February.

### Cinema Studies

Nora Clark [nora.clark@washburn.edu](mailto:nora.clark@washburn.edu)  
J. Tom Adams [papawmik2004@yahoo.com](mailto:papawmik2004@yahoo.com)

#### DOMESTIC MOVIE

No Domestic Movie for February.

#### FOREIGN MOVIE

Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 to 4:00pm  
Lawrence Public Library, Room "C"

*"The Gods Must Be Crazy"*, (Desert Adventure, Comedy) 1980 1h 49min  
A Bushman in the Kalahari Desert encounters technology for the first time--in the shape of a Coke bottle. He takes it back to his people, and they use it for many tasks. The people start to fight over it, so he decides to return it to the Gods--where he thinks it came from. Meanwhile, we are introduced to a clumsy biologist, a school teacher assigned to a small village and a despotic revolutionary. Written and directed by Jamie Uys the picture had 2 wins and 3 nominations for various awards.

#### DOCUMENTARY MOVIE

Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 to 4:00pm  
Lawrence Public Library, Room C

*"Cuckoo"* (Comedy, Drama, War) 2002 1h 39min

September, 1944, a few days before Finland went out of the Second World War. A chained-to-a-rock Finnish sniper, Kamikadze Veikko, managed to set himself free. Ivan, a captain of the Soviet Army, arrested by the Front Secret Police, Smersh; has a narrow escape. They are soldiers of the two enemy armies. A Lapp woman, Anni, gives a shelter to both of them at her farm. For Anni they are not enemies, but just men. Written and directed by Aleksandr Rogozhkin, the picture had 24 wins and 11 nominations for various awards.

## **Drama Studies**

Michael Shaw [michaelhearneshaw@gmail.com](mailto:michaelhearneshaw@gmail.com)

**Tuesdays, February 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

Pioneer Ridge Art Room

The Endacott Drama Group will read and discuss Oscar Wilde's play, "The Importance of Being Earnest." Michael Shaw will be the leader.

## **Games Theory**

Steven Lee [swlee@ku.edu](mailto:swlee@ku.edu)

**Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

Senior Resource Center—Garden Room

Can you roll a ping pong ball for fun and profit? In February we will be playing Drop Cup, a new group game. It looks to be lots of fun. Come join us as we'll team up for Drop Cup. As always treats will be provided. See you there!

## **Garden Seminar**

Cal & Jo Cink [ccinkbird76@gmail.com](mailto:ccinkbird76@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**, Adams Alumni Center

--Audubon Christmas Bird Counts- Citizen Science Results

**Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**, Adams Alumni Center

--Sowing Success: Research-based Gardening for Beginners

## **Great Books (Zoom)**

Jim Woelfel [woelfel@ku.edu](mailto:woelfel@ku.edu)

**Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**

Our reading will be Saul Bellow's novella *The Actual* (1997). Bellow (1915-2005) was a major American writer of the 20th century, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1976. *The Actual*, written in his later years, is vintage Bellow. The narrator, middle-aged Harry Trellman, has been in love with the same woman, Amy Wurstin, since they were fifteen. After marriages and divorces on both sides, both are now living in Chicago. Harry believes the time has come for them to be together, but this characteristically Bellowian intellectual has always had difficulty communicating his real feelings to others. As with many of Bellow's stories, this one mixes up cultural sophistication and streetwise urban language, situations, and relationships, and includes some very funny situations. *The Actual* is available in a Penguin Classics edition and as a pdf version.

### **Lunch Bunch**

Ron Schorr [rwwschorr@gmail.com](mailto:rwwschorr@gmail.com)

**Wednesdays, 11:45 am.** Ron will announce a local restaurant each week, or weather permitting, he may announce a picnic-style brown bag at the Weinberg Pavilion at the Rotary Arboretum, 5100 W. 27th St. Please contact Ron by email to receive his announcements.

### **Movement Workshop**

Haskell Springer [springer@ku.edu](mailto:springer@ku.edu)

**Fridays, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup> at 9am**  
Senior Resource Center

We'll meet every Friday in February **EXCEPT** for Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Old-Time Radio (Zoom)**

John Nicholson [wryterjccc@gmail.com](mailto:wryterjccc@gmail.com)

**Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm-3:45pm**

The first program will be the *Family Theatre* version of *Robin Hood*. Then we'll hear from William Boyd as the famous *Hopalong Cassidy*. Finally, we'll listen to Vincent Price as *The Saint*.

The waiting room opens at 1:15, with the program beginning at 1:30. If this is your first time attending, please consider joining us. No reservations are necessary.

### **Out-of-Town Travel**

Judy Niebaum [jniebaum@sunflower.com](mailto:jniebaum@sunflower.com)

**Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**

The out-of-town travel group will visit the TWA Museum in Kansas City. The Museum recounts the history of Kansas City's "hometown airline" in a hangar on the original Kansas City Municipal Airport location beneath the Missouri River bluffs. It is staffed primarily by volunteer retired TWA employees.

Admission is \$8, payable in advance. For more information contact Judy Niebaum at (360) 953-2240.

### **Potluck Dinner & Lecture**

Linda Mullens [lmullens@ku.edu](mailto:lmullens@ku.edu)

The next potluck will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Technology Studies**

Dave Mannering [dmannering@yahoo.com](mailto:dmannering@yahoo.com)

Adams Alumni Center

**Wednesday, February 5, 9:00 AM, Adams Alumni Center**

--*Highlights from the 2025 Consumer Electronics Show*

**Wednesday, February 19, 9:00 AM, Adams Alumni Center**

-- *Quantum Computing - Meet the Qubit*

**Wednesday Coffee**

Kevin Boatright [kboatright@ku.edu](mailto:kboatright@ku.edu)

**Wednesday, February 5, 10:00 a.m.** – Adams Alumni Center

**Wednesday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.** — Adams Alumni Center

**Wednesday, February 19, 10:00 a.m.** — Adams Alumni Center – **Birthday Cake**

**Wednesday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.** — Adams Alumni Center

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The Endacott Society will participate in its third February food drive in support of the [Campus Cupboard](#). Members will bring food items to our four Wednesday Coffee meetings in February where they will be collected and marked with labels identifying the Endacott Society as the donor of the items. We will take these over to the Campus Cupboard Office in the KU Memorial Union after each Coffee Hour.

The Cupboard accepts any donations of non-perishable food. They recommend items such as pasta, soups, beans, shelf-stable milk, cereals, rice, peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruits, canned tuna and chicken. gluten-free items, spices and other condiments. Additional items can be found at: [www.student\\_support.ku.edu/campus-cupboard](http://www.student_support.ku.edu/campus-cupboard)

If you do not donate food, please consider a financial contribution to KU Endowment with ***Campus Cupboard*** indicated as the recipient from the Endacott Society. Thank you!

--Cal & Jo Cink