

In Conversation With

\$3,000 for program, reception, and dinner for up to 9
\$2,000 for program plus reception
\$1,500 for program

In Person

Galactic Philadelphia Speculative Fiction Author Event

January 18 or 19, 6:00 p.m.

Curated by Lawrence M. Schoen and Sally Wiener Grotta

For the first time, the Rosenbach is partnering with Galactic Philadelphia for a speculative fiction literary salon. Listen to two prominent authors as they read from their latest work and converse with them and other guests in an informal and engaging salon-style conversation. Before the readings, you'll get the chance to explore the Rosenbach with a tour of Dr. Rosenbach's library or the special exhibition. We'll convene for readings (authors to be announced), get books signed by the authors and be entered into a raffle for the chance to win a free book. Finally, although the Rosenbach will close at 8 p.m., the audience is invited to continue their conversation at a nearby pub.

Dani S. Bassett and Perry Zurn on *Curious Minds*

February 15, 6:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Robert K. Urquhart

Curiosity, say Perry Zurn and Dani Bassett, is a practice of connection: it connects ideas into networks of knowledge, and it connects knowers themselves, both to the knowledge they seek and to each other. Traipsing across literatures of antiquity and medieval science, Victorian poetry and nature essays, as well as work by writers from a variety of marginalized communities, they trace a multitudinous curiosity. The book performs the very curiosity that it describes, inviting readers to participate—to be curious with the book and not simply about it.

About the Authors

Dani S. Bassett is the J. Peter Skirkanich Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, with appointments in the Departments of Bioengineering, Electrical & Systems Engineering, Physics & Astronomy, Neurology, and Psychiatry. They received a B.S. in physics from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Cambridge. They have received multiple prestigious awards, including a MacArthur Fellow Genius Grant in 2014.

Perry Zurn is Associate Professor of Philosophy at American University, and affiliate faculty in the Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies. He researches primarily in political philosophy, critical theory, and transgender studies, and collaborates in psychology and network neuroscience. He received an M.A. in Philosophy at Miami University and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from DePaul University. Zurn's work has been featured in dozens of podcast, radio, and television shows, as well as in mainstream outlets such as Harvard Books, Talks at Google, and The Guardian.

Emma Smith on *Portable Magic*

March 28, 6:00 pm

Portable Magic is a history of one of humankind's most resilient and influential technologies over the past millennium—the book. From disrupting the Western myth that the Gutenberg Press was the original printing project, to the decorative gift books that radicalized women to join the anti-slavery movement, to paperbacks being weaponized during World War II, to a book made entirely of plastic-wrapped slices of American cheese, *Portable Magic* explores how, when, and why books became so iconic. Every book is designed to influence our reading experience—to enchant, enrage, delight, and disturb us—and our long standing love affair with books in turn has had direct, momentous consequences across time.

About the Author

Dr Emma Smith is Professor of Shakespeare Studies at Oxford University, and the author of This Is Shakespeare (2020). She lives in Oxford, England. Her research combines a range of approaches to Shakespeare and early modern drama. Pedagogy is important to her and she continues to work on readerly editions of early modern texts and on books, articles and lectures which disseminate research to the widest possible audience.

Courses

\$1,500 Pays for two scholarships

Why We Still Read Robert Burns with Steve Newman

In Person at the Rosenbach, Thursdays 6:30-8:30, Feb 23, Mar 16, Mar 30, Apr 20

Sponsored by Robert K. Urquhart

On the evening of January 25th, people from Edinburgh to Shanghai to Philadelphia gather to toast “the immortal memory” of Robert Burns. For he is not only Scotland's national poet; his work has been translated into Hebrew, Russian, Chinese, Esperanto, and a host of other languages. To discover the range and depth of the work that has established Burns as a poet of global significance, we will dive into a great deal of his poetry and a bit of his prose, drawing significantly on one of the world's finest Burns collections--the Rosenbach's—which holds precious manuscripts and editions of some of his most important works.

We will begin with Burns' spectacular burst on to the scene in 1786, investigating the literary and political matrices that made it possible for this son of a short-lease farmer to become so celebrated so quickly, though not entirely on his own terms. We will then focus on his love and bawdy songs, considering how Burns draws on and transforms tradition in lyrics on affection and lust, and the codes of gender and sexuality that inform them. Next come his interventions in the politics of the nation, as he presents himself as a “Bardie” licensed to comment on a range of state and religious matters and navigates the electrified disputes of his time. We will conclude with some of his masterpieces—including Tam O'Shanter and Love and Liberty—and the ways his work is circulated, celebrated, and critiqued by readers ranging from Walt Whitman to Frederick Douglass to Abraham Lincoln to Maya Angelou and has recently become part of Scotland's reckoning with its role in the slave trade. Along the way, we will take time to enjoy Burns, paying attention to his remarkable craft, the keen edge of his wit, and the wide range of his sympathy. So don't “gang aley”; join us!

About the Instructor

Steve Newman is Associate Professor of English at Temple University, where he has won multiple teaching awards. Robert Burns figures centrally into his book, *Ballad Collection, Lyric, and the Canon: The Call of the Popular from the Restoration to the New Criticism* (Penn Press), a recent article in *Global Romanticism* (Bucknell University Press), a forthcoming article from Blackwell, and his book-in-progress, *Time for the Humanities: Competing Narratives of Value from the Scottish Enlightenment to the 21st Century Academy*. His

edition of *The Gentle Shepherd* was published this year as the inaugural volume of the Edinburgh University Press edition of *The Works of Allan Ramsay*, and he heads up a digital humanities project on *The Beggar's Opera*. He recently served as the President of Temple's faculty union, the Temple Association of University Professionals (AFT #4531).

William Butler Yeats: Enchantment and Rage with Vicki Mahaffey

Virtual, 4 monthly sessions on Zoom

In a disenchanted age, it is important to consider the unexpectedly ethical potential of enchanted moments. In this course, we will look at enchantment as a moment of wonder that can trigger ethical responses; as a musical metaphor (enchantment comes from the French "chanter," to sing); and as a figure for national paralysis or colonization in Ireland. We will trace how magic gives way to violence as the main impetus behind Yeats's poems, ending with his magnificent rage against old age. Each class will begin with relevant background material followed by a detailed examination of 5-10 poems.

About the Instructor

Vicki Mahaffey is the author of three books, all of which have something to do with Joyce, as well as two edited collections and fifty articles. She received her Ph.D. from Princeton University, and taught at the University of Pennsylvania for almost thirty years. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the International James Joyce Foundation (currently serving her third term). While at Penn, she taught courses at the Rosenbach and was involved in the planning of the annual Bloomsday celebrations (she is proudest of introducing musical performances, although she was also part of the team that chose the readings). She is currently the Kirkpatrick Professor of English and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois..

The Gothic Science of Dracula

In Person at The Mütter Museum and The Rosenbach Museum and Library

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 & Wednesday, February 22, 2023 6:30 PM–8:30PM

Bram Stoker's novel features more than just blood-sucking monsters and dark imaginings. Stoker was fascinated by the science of his day and his characters use scientific concepts and technology to battle Count Dracula. Vampire folklore itself was always guided by forensic science to explain belief in the Undead. In this four-evening course led jointly by the Mütter Museum and the Rosenbach Museum & Library, we'll explore the intersection of science and literature, through the lens of Dracula. At the Mütter, we'll learn how exhumed bodies were identified as vampires and examine how science blended with the occult in the 19th Century. At the Rosenbach, using first editions of the novel and Bram Stoker's own manuscript notes, we'll analyze how science was incorporated into the book and what this means for how vampires developed in the years since Dracula was published.

Reading *Middlemarch* with Dr. Sean Christopher Hughes

Virtual, 5 monthly meetings on Zoom

Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 pm Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19, May 24, Jun 21

Virginia Woolf praised *Middlemarch* as "one of the few English novels written for grown-up people." Happily, it's also funny, deeply empathetic, and full of romance. George Eliot's masterpiece is a novel about Dorothea Brooke, a young woman entering a questionable marriage, Tertius Lydgate, a doctor at the start of his career, and Middlemarch, the provincial town where they live. But it's also a book about everything. Eliot knew how to view human life on the largest possible scales—she was friends with some of the leading scientific minds of her day, and she translated works of philosophy by Spinoza and Feuerbach. At the same time, she remains one of the wisest observers of human psychology in all of literature.

Middlemarch is a masterful synthesis of these two sides of Eliot's genius, because it's about dealing with the disconnect between the grandeur of our highest aspirations and the small compromises that make up our

lives. If you've ever struggled to understand your place in human history, if you've ever felt troubled by the disconnect between your youthful ambitions and your day-to-day existence, if you want to empathize with the people around you even when they feel stifling, then *Middlemarch* is for you.

Each session will include background on one of the novel's contexts, but our discussions will be guided by the interests of our participants. Likely topics include marriage, status, history, ambition, gossip, morality, gender, why things change, why things stay the same, family, politics, the purpose of art, and the meaning of life.

About the instructor

Sean Hughes is a Philly-based writer and editor who has taught at Bryn Mawr College and Rutgers University – New Brunswick, where he completed a PhD in English Literature in 2020. His research interests include nineteenth-century literature, the relationship between literature and philosophy, historicism, and poetics. His article “George Eliot, Typology, and the Moral Psychology of Historicism” was published in the Spring 2022 issue of *English Literary History*. In addition to his academic work, he is also a poetry editor and the co-creator of the webcomic *Wally and the Witches*.

Reading The Satanic Verses with Randy Boyagoda

Virtual, 5 meetings on Zoom

Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm

Mar 14, Apr 4, Apr 25, May 16, Jun 6

Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* is the best known least read novel of our time. Dating from its 1988 publication and punctuated by the declaration of a *fatwa* against the author in 1989, the novel has long been the object of geopolitical controversy, religious strife, freedom of expression defenses, and acts of violence committed against people around the world, including, most recently, the author himself. Throughout this time, the meanings and textures of the novel itself have long been diminished by its fraught public reputation. This is unfortunate. In its ideas, themes, characters, plot and structure, *The Satanic Verses* poses a profoundly important question: How does newness come into the world? In multiple settings, moods, and storytelling modes, the novel explores answers to this question, focused, particularly on acts of personal migration and the creation of a new world religion. Also, the novel is really funny. In this seminar, novelist and professor Randy Boyagoda will guide students through a sequenced reading of the novel across five class meetings.

About the Instructor

Randy Boyagoda is a novelist and professor of English at the University of Toronto. He is the author of six books including, most recently, the novels *Original Prin* and *Dante's Indiana*, and contributes essays and reviews to a variety of publications including *The Atlantic* and *the New York Times*.

Ladies of the House of Love: A Feminist & Queer Gothic Literature Book Club

January 31, February 28 & March 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

As a literary genre, the Gothic is often associated with ominous castles, dark, stormy nights, and people fleeing from unnamed horrors. But the Gothic is—and always has been—much more complicated and interesting than this, because it uses gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and the erotic to hint at the radical potential inherent in all of us. In this book club, we'll read historic and contemporary works of Gothic fiction inspired by the Rosenbach's collections. Each month, the club will cozy up in the candle-lit, historic West Library of the Rosenbach mansion, view objects from the collection, and discuss the Gothic's connections to gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity. Gothic novels often ask readers to consider—and be suspicious of—social structures. As such, we focus on writers from the “margins”—Queer people, women, and People of Color, for instance—grappling with how they question society and their characters' places in it. Each club meeting will touch on the roots of the Gothic in the 18th and 19th centuries but focus on 21st-century themes. Only books

by women, People of Color, and/or Queer authors will be read by the club. Join us as we embark on a surreal literary voyage!

Meeting 1: Sylvia Moreno-Garcia, *Mexican Gothic*

Meeting 2: Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Meeting 3: Helen Oyeyemi, *White is for Witching*

Book Club Facilitators

Dr. Petra Clark is a literary historian, educator, and library professional. She earned her PhD in English from the University of Delaware in 2019 with a specialization in Victorian literature and art, particularly focusing on magazines created by and for women during the late nineteenth century. Petra has taught college courses on everything from research writing and feminist literature to comics history and monster media, as well as a recent Rosenbach course on the artist Aubrey Beardsley. She currently works in the Special Collections department at the University of Delaware Library, but when she isn't haunting the rare books stacks, she can usually be found reading creepy fiction with her cat.

*Dr. Samantha Nystrom is an avid fan of reading, painting, baking, playing Scrabble, and analyzing stories. She learned how to do such narrative pondering during her time at the University of Delaware, where she received her PhD in English Literature. While at UD, she taught classes ranging from film studies to British Literature to composition, which focused on how identities are constructed and represented. Her class on British Literature, for example, focused on texts with the monstrous other, asking students: Who is the true monster? Her research asked questions about the role gardens and landscapes had in constructing personal, national, and imperial identities within 19th-century Britain; her work on Walter Scott and Gothic landscapes and architecture will soon be published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Studies in Romanticism*. She currently lives in Philadelphia with her vampiric cat, Percy, and is a writer at Jefferson.*

*Dr. Alexander Lawrence Ames, Associate Curator of the Rosenbach Museum & Library, vividly recalls his teenage experiences with Gothic literature: terrifying himself so thoroughly with J.S. LeFanu's *Uncle Silas* that he dared not leave his bedroom, falling under the spell of Mrs. Radcliffe's enchanting countrysides in *The Romance of the Forest*, feeling the pangs of youthful longing for the noble young Valancourt in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, and hearing Mr. Rochester's voice on the wind in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Dr. Ames will lead artifact show-and-tell sessions at each meeting of *Ladies of the House of Love*, to help club members situate book club selections in the context of the Rosenbach's collections. When not hosting book clubs or curating Rosenbach exhibitions, Dr. Ames is likely playing haunting melodies on his Celtic harp, or strolling pensively across the castle grounds as twilight breaks.*

Shakespeare Read Aloud

Sponsored by Genie and James Murphy

In-Person

Saturday, January 7, 1 – 4 PM *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Saturday, February 4, 1 – 4 PM *Antony and Cleopatra* (Part 1)

Saturday, March 4, 1 – 4 PM *Antony and Cleopatra* (Part 2)

Virtual

Saturday, January 21, 1 – 4:30 PM *The Comedy of Errors*

Saturday, February 18, 1 – 4:30 PM *Romeo and Juliet*

Saturday, March 18, 1 – 4:30 PM *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

Behind the Bookcase Tours

Sponsored by William and Anna Marie Petersen

Sunday, January 8, 2 - 3 PM: Written In My Heart: James Joyce and Irish Authors

Thursday, January 12, 6 – 7 PM: The Duties of the Tea Table: Exploring the History and Culture of Tea

Thursday, January 26, 6 PM: Nobel Prize Winners

Thursday, February 9, 6 - 7 PM: Yours Forever: Love Letters in the Archive

Saturday, February 11, 2 - 3 PM: Yours Forever: Love Letters in the Archive

Thursday, February 23, 6 – 7 PM: Early Hebrew Books III: A Grafted Tree

Sunday, March 5, 2 – 3 PM: Curiouser and Curiouser: A Look at Lewis Carroll

Thursday, March 9, 6 - 7 PM: Here Lies the Heart: Mercedes de Acosta and the Power of Queer Storytelling

Thursday, March 23, 6 – 7 PM: Women Novelists

Podcast

Sponsored by The Evelyn Toll Foundation

Season 2 of *The Rosenbach Podcast*: “History Behind the Scenes” - launches in January