

◆ Collegium News ◆

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Newsletter of the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium

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Newsletter

Annalee Larson

**Fall classes start
September 20!
Call 645-2311 to
register now.**

The play's the thing, no, the play's many things

The most you may get out of a play depends on how much you are required to use your own imagination, according to Ed Sostek. And piquing students' imaginations is a priority in his drama classes.

"Reading the play is the most difficult, challenging, but perhaps potentially the most fruitful," he says, "because it leaves all the options open. As in reading a novel, you put faces on the people and environment

around them. You try to imagine how they feel, how they look — all issues one can be very creative about, Sostek, said. In addition, the reader can find all kinds of themes, theses, morals.

Difficult, but full of options are Shakespeare's plays. "That's one of the reasons he is interpreted and reinterpreted over the years," Sostek says. Any of the Bard's plays are difficult to read because there are no stage directions, no

character descriptions except what occurs in the script ('has a lean and hungry look')

"But you might be much happier seeing the play,"

"But whether we are graduating from high school or contemplating retirement from a current job, a commitment to continuous, life-long learning is our best hope to transform the world into one that will be safer, freer, healthier and more nurturing of our hopes and dreams and those of generations to come."

—Lawrence Perlman,
CEO, Ceridian Corp.

Sostek said, "though your options are reduced. You are forced into a much tighter framework which makes it easier for you ... there is something there for you to grab on to.

"One thing in this course I hope very much not to deal
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Paintings, plays and pluralism — plenty of choices in fall

Fall term Collegium courses offer something for every area of interest. The following list gives the opportunity to plan. More complete course descriptions and locations will reach mailboxes in a few weeks.

Jim Wolf will teach "Thomas Mann" Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. "Irish Short Stories" is offered by Stan Frear on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30. "Assimilation, Cultural Pluralism and Indian Treaty Rights" taught by Henry Fritz will meet Tuesdays from 10:15 to 12:15. Connie Sansome offers another geology course, "Minnesota's Rocks: An Introduction to the State's Geology," meeting Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. New to the Collegium, Ed Sostek's

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The Collegium is interested in feedback from all interested parties. Send your comments, suggestions, general annoyances to the Senior Center: atten. CVEC. Compliments are also accepted.



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1001 Division Street South
Northfield, MN 55057

www.cvec.org

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Says it all

"You can only play so much bingo!" --Julia Savina

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with," he said, is what he pegged as the critics' "loved him, hated her" kind of evaluations. "This class has nothing to do with that. You may agree or disagree with an interpretation, but then you have to ask yourself, 'why do I agree or disagree' and then you start to discover more things that you understand about the play, despite the particular production." You enlarge upon that in your own mind and your interpretation is richer, he said.

Plays to be studied will depend on what is playing here and in the surrounding area, Sostek said. He also wants the group to see at least one original play they can't read beforehand. "Sometimes the experience of just seeing a play is so ephemeral that you're not sure what's happened, so a larger concept stays with you" while the details fade.

Sostek wants to experiment with the sequence of reading and seeing; how are they different? Does either enrich the other? "that will be most interesting for me."

He thrives on the ambiguity of a piece. Any stage of interpretation is progressively limiting, then with a glint he added, "Personally, I like the chaos."

Collegium classes are a good part of the reason Paula Lawrence recently moved to Northfield. "It certainly was a catalyst," she said. Now settled in her townhouse, the former Minneapolisian is happy not to have the long commute to attend.

A retired pharmacist, Lawrence was accustomed to ongoing learning through the continuing education requirements for her profession. Lawrence said she wanted to keep learning — outside of pharmacy. "I read about the Collegium in the paper and

"It certainly was a catalyst ... I just wanted to get back to where I could see a tree and hear the birds."

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class, "The Play's the Thing — No, the Play's Many Things" runs Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30. Reidar Dittmann will teach "The Lively Arts of Scandinavia" on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

For more information or to register, call 645-2311.

Collegium motivates move's direction

—found the Web site," she said. "I down-loaded the application and signed up." With music one of her first loves, Lawrence commuted last winter to Ron Ronning's Beethoven course. She then took the "Symmetry" class in the spring from Sy Schuster and was hooked.

"I was living in a high-rise condo in a concrete jungle," she said, "and I was sitting on the fence. But I knew I needed to get out to a suburb. Then I asked myself, 'why a suburb?'"

"I just wanted to be back

to where I could see a tree and hear birds." Lawrence is "very impressed with the quality of teaching and the participation and enthusiasm of students. I knew I wanted to continue."

There are elder learning opportunities in the Twin Cities, but, Lawrence said, the driving and parking are difficult, classes are large, and not all classes are taught by retired professors.

"The Web-site is a good thing," said the computer savvy retiree. Not meaning to indicate a trend, but the first people she met in town were St Olaf classmates who had moved back.