2015 EnRICHment/RARI Speakers

Robert Hackey

Bob Hackey is a professor of Health Policy and Management at Providence College and a visiting fellow at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina University. His research explores how storytelling defines public issues, with a particular focus on health care reform and veterans’ issues. In the fall of 2014, he coordinated a statewide production of an ancient Greek play (Ajax) to raise awareness of the challenges facing returning veterans. His most recent publications include a forthcoming article on images of health and health care in the *Hunger Games* trilogy and a recent book on the language of health care reform - *Cries of Crisis: Rethinking the Health Care Debate* (U of Nevada Press, 2012).

Discussion: As a discussion leader, Bob is particularly interested in exploring both the portrayal of Sheldon as a veteran and the recurring discussion of dementia in the book. His recent work with Greek drama focused heavily on the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder on veterans. Sheldon's life is defined by his military service, as his world view and sense of self were shaped by his service in the Korean War. Memories and flashbacks feature prominently in *Norwegian By Night*, raising important questions of how we remember and reconstruct past events. The conflicting stories about Sheldon's service, in turn, raise important questions about his mental capacity. Bob hopes to explore the challenges families face in caring for family members with dementia during his conversations this Spring.

Marta Martinez

Marta V. Martínez is currently the Executive Director of Rhode Island Latino Arts. She is former Executive Director of the Hispanic Social Services Association (HSSA) of Rhode Island and the founding Director of the Center for Hispanic Policy & Advocacy (CHisPA) (1989-1995). From 2010 to 2014 she was the Communications Director at Progreso Latino in Central Falls. She is the co-founder of the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Hispanic Affairs and founder of the César Chávez Scholarship Fund and the Hispanic Heritage Committee of Rhode Island. In 2008, Martínez helped co-found and serves on the Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO), raising awareness on behalf of undocumented students in their search of higher education opportunities. She has served as an advisor on a number of statewide boards and commission on the needs of Latinos in Rhode Island, focusing on areas ranging from health, education & employment to the arts, culture, heritage & interpreting services. Marta currently serves on the board of the Juanita Sánchez Community Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation.

Discussion: People who have “made history” often say that they were not thinking of making history, but were just going through daily life. Sheldon Horowitz, the main character of *Norwegian by Night*, falls into this category. But, as we learn, Sheldon, a Korean War sniper, watchmaker, husband, father, and New Yorker is as unique as his experiences. As he ages, Sheldon encourages the preservation and understanding of his character by telling stories. In her discussion, Marta V. Martínez will offer a hands-on workshop on how to listen and collect community and family oral histories. Learning useful interviewing techniques, the best recording equipment to use and how to make the information you gather
useful, attendees will discover how to cherish and preserve memories of family members who have experienced -and made- history.

**Patti Cassidy**

Patti Cassidy is a writer, documentary filmmaker, educator, and historic researcher. In Rhode Island, Patti’s work has looked at the history of elephants in the state and the form and function of war monuments. Patti has also taught OLLI Courses on Film Study at the University of Rhode Island. Currently living in Massachusetts, she is a producer/director at the Boston Play Café.

**Discussion: WHOSE WAR?**

Who does war belong to? Is it the soldier who fought in it? The governments who began it? Or the historians who study it? And who decides how we remember war? As a community, as a city, we erect monuments and memorials to our shared experience - but who decides what they should look like? What qualities- tragedy or triumph- should they depict? In *Whose War?* Patti Cassidy’s presentation about War Memorials in Rhode Island, she explores some of the decisions that went into erecting the various monuments we see around the state. She asks questions like “What makes a war memorial effective?” and “Who are war memorials for, in the end?” Thinking about the memorials that surround us, we will hopefully be able to make wise choices in the future as well.

**Living Literature**

Living Literature is a collective of RI-based performing artists, who celebrate the written word through readers theatre style performances of non-dramatic literature. Since its inception in January of 1996, Living Literature has created well over 100 presentations based on poems, stories, novels, plays, essays, biographies, articles, and oral histories, in libraries, schools, and other community venues throughout southeastern New England. This is Living Literature’s sixth year creating programs for Reading Across Rhode Island, the signature program of Rhode Island Center for the Book, and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. Living Literature will present a readers theatre style performance of *Norwegian by Night* intended for both audiences who have read the work and those who have not.

EnRICHment and Reading Across Rhode Island are Programs of:

[Logo of Rhode Island Council for the Humanities]