

Sunday, November 5th, 2017

The Poetry of World War I

Grace parishioner Diana Benet

More than 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians died in World War I. This carnage, the deployment of chemical weapons (such as tear and mustard gasses), and the brutality of trench warfare had a profound impact on poetry. A movement away from idealism and toward skepticism and disillusion inspired powerful poetry that still moves us. Grace parishioner Dr. Diana Benet, is a professor at the University of North Texas.

Sunday, November 12th, 2017

Grace Church and World War I

Grace parishioner Nicholas Birns

From the innovative war writing of city residents John Dos Passos, Edith Wharton and Willa Cather to the ideological convulsions of chauvinism, pacifism, and disillusionment, New York grew up as a city during World War I. Grace Church contributed to this process, sending over a dozen men to give their lives in the war. The massive deaths of wartime caused Christians to think differently about the afterlife, reflected in the revisions in the 1928 Prayer Book partially written by Grace's rector, Charles Lewis Slattery. Grace parishioner Dr. Nicholas Birns teaches at The New School and NYU.

Sunday, November 19th, 2017

Lincoln's Death and the Dangerous Theology of Certainty

The Rev. Robert M. Pennoyer II

Abraham Lincoln was shot on Good Friday, and he died the next morning. That Easter Sunday, preachers throughout the North tried to comfort their congregants and make sense of the president's assassination. The sermons that survive include several that are deeply unsettling to modern ears. Pennoyer will speak about those sermons, about Lincoln's own theology, and about how Episcopal schools are well suited for grappling with matters like these. The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II is the Assistant Head of School and Director of Studies at Grace Church School

Sunday, December 10th, 2017

The House That Grace Built is Now a Home!

Grace Church parishioners have answered the Biblical call to be good neighbors here in New York City. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity New York City, we spent many hours each month working together to raise the roof on 'The House That Grace Built' in Queens and at other sites in our community. Today, we celebrate these accomplishments and answer your questions about the program.



GRACE CHURCH in NEW YORK

The Sunday Forum

Fall 2017 Calendar



The Sunday Forum

This fall classes will touch upon a series of historical and current issue-driven topics that are relevant to the Grace congregation and the Episcopal Church at large as we strive to examine what it means to live together as a faith community. Adult Education classes offer both newcomers and long-time members of the parish spiritual nourishment, opportunities to get to know one another, and in-depth discussion on issues that are central to both the church and individual members.

All classes start at 10 am on Sundays. Advanced registration is not required and all classes are free of charge. Each presentation will include time for questions and answers. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Sunday, September 10th, 2017

Welcome Back and Introduction to Fall Season The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Rector, Grace Church

Sunday, September 17th, 2017

The Politics of Gun Control Craig R. Whitney, Author of *Living with Guns: A Liberal's Case for the Second Amendment*

Gun violence on a massive scale has become a plague in our society, yet politicians seem more afraid of having a serious conversation about guns than they are of the next horrific shooting. Can we ever reach common ground on this contentious issue? Craig R. Whitney is a former foreign correspondent and editor at the *New York Times*. Whitney covered Vietnam, and was bureau chief in Moscow. A member of Grace Church Brooklyn Heights, he is also an organist and author of *All the Stops* about the instrument and some of its best-known players in America.

Sunday, September 24th, 2017

A Columbarium for Grace Church The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Rector, Grace Church

The Rector will lead a presentation about the columbarium that will be installed in the south transept in late September. We will touch on the changing burial practices in America, various religious perspectives on cremation, and how the idea for a columbarium at Grace Church got started. We will also hear from Grant Marani and David Pearson of Robert A.M. Stern Architects who designed the columbarium.

Sunday, October 1st, 2017

Auden, the Psalms, and Me J. Chester Johnson

As one of two surviving members of the drafting committee for the retranslation of the Psalms that were included in the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*—and as one who replaced W. H. Auden as the poet on that committee, J. Chester Johnson will speak about his recently published text which offers an account of his experience that illuminate this part of the Episcopal Psalter story and Auden's contribution, and describes the key elements that drove the creation of this retranslation.

Sunday, October 15th, 2017

Grace Church and the Civil War Jason McDonald, Grace Church School

Jason McDonald is a technology and history teacher at Grace Church School. In Fall 2017, he is teaching multiple sections of Civil War and Reconstruction. He has connected the course to the history of Grace Church and other New York City locations. McDonald will discuss his course and subjects, including the Civil War sermons of Grace Church Rector Thomas House Taylor, the Union Rally of 1861 in Union Square, Tom Thumb's wedding, and the 1865 Lincoln Funeral procession. Students will join us to discuss their experiences.

Sunday, October 22nd, 2017

Syrian Scholar & Activist Naila Al-Atrash with Grace parishioner Catharine Stimpson

Naila Al-Atrash is a Syrian theater director, educator, and human rights activist known for her challenging plays which explore society, economics, and politics. She left Syria in 2009, returned briefly in 2011 before continued harassment forced her to leave again. Naila, currently teaching at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, will discuss the diverse cultural, religious and ethnic background of Syria before the 2011 conflict, along with her own personal history. Grace parishioner Catharine R. Stimpson, University Professor at NYU and Dean Emerita of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, is Board Chair of *Scholars at Risk*, a network dedicated to promoting academic freedom and protecting threatened scholars.

Sunday, October 29th, 2017

A Pirate State Organized for Benevolence: Herbert Hoover and the Commission for the Relief of Belgium in World War I Grace parishioner Margaret Hoover

At the outbreak of WWI, a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions loomed just inside the Western Front. With the German army marching west, the forces that successfully conquered the Kingdom of Belgium and Northern France refused to take responsibility for feeding the civilian population it occupied. Into this murderous stalemate stepped Herbert Hoover and the story of Belgian relief -- which marked the turning point in history where international relief became operationally effective on a massive scale and where American philanthropy became a force in geopolitics -- as told by his great-granddaughter and Grace parishioner Margaret Hoover.