

# The Learning Lab

*Woodstock's Own Adult Education Experience*

## Winter, 2019 classes



A History of Canada  
The World and Us: News, Fake News...  
Of Moral Men and Pious Pigs  
Winter Culinary Class  
The Persistence of Racism: Part II  
Woodstock's Conservation Heritage

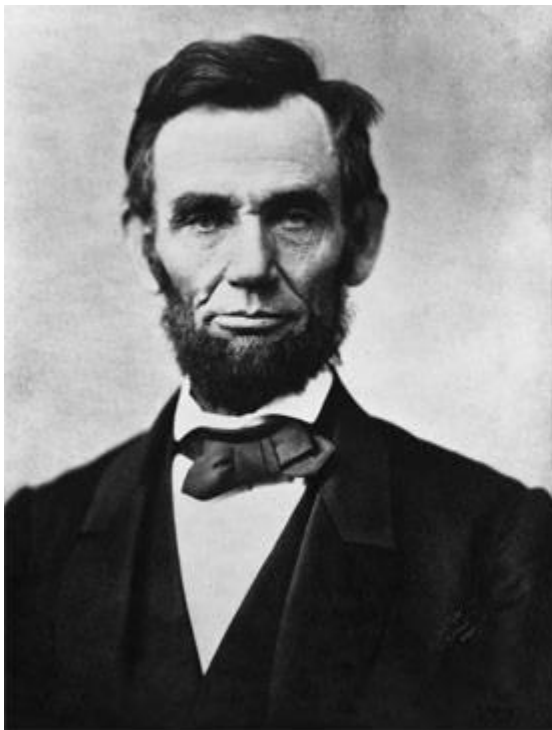
## The World and Us: News, Fake News, Belief, & Jokes

Bill Boardman

The perennial search for reliable sources continues in 2019 which, as this is written, is a vast mix of the known and unknown, along with the known unknown and the unknown known (pace Rumsfeld). What I mean is, at this moment, we can only guess at what the New Year will bring us – Democrats in Congress (or not), war on Iran (or not), Mueller indictments (or not), Kavanaugh impeachment (or not), and so on. This class will try to make sense of whatever realities seem most important to the class, and how those realities are filtered through media, reliable and otherwise, and ways to tell the difference.

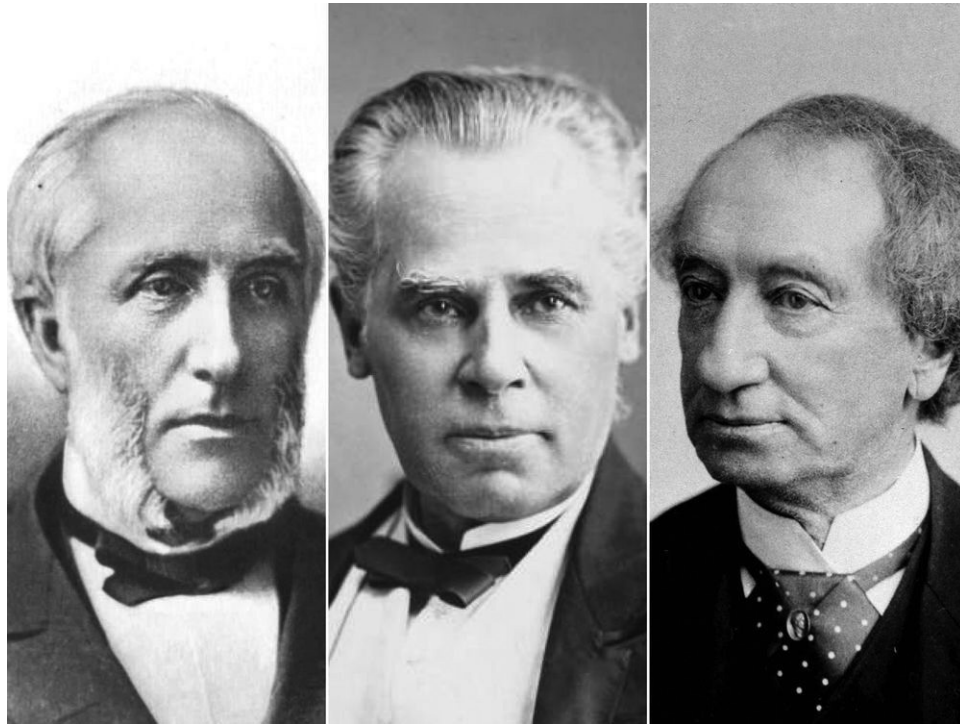
Mondays, January 28 - March 11, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Norman Williams Public Library

**William Boardman** writes weekly political pieces for Reader Supported News – [rsn.org](http://rsn.org) – online. He is the author of the book, *WCS Woodstock Country School, A History of Institutional Denial* (2017). He was a Windsor County Assistant Judge for twenty years. He produced The Panther Program for Vermont Public Radio.



**“Don’t believe  
everything you  
read on the  
Internet just  
because there’s  
a picture with a  
quote next to it.”**

**—Abraham Lincoln**



## A History of Canada

Ron Miller

Back by popular demand! We Americans know almost nothing about Canada's history, which paralleled our own yet in many ways took a very different course. When this class was offered last year, participants were fascinated to learn about the variations in geography, colonial settlement, and political culture that shaped Canada into a North American society distinct from that of the U.S. Canadian scholar Peter Russell calls it "a country based on incomplete conquests," and in this course we'll explore what he means.

We'll explore the complicated relationship between European settlers and the diverse First Nations they encountered. We'll learn the stories of *les habitants* in the St. Lawrence valley and of *les Acadiens* in the maritimes, and the results of the collision between these French settlements and Anglo-American colonial expansion. We'll meet many of the key figures in Canadian history, from Cartier and Champlain to Guy Carleton and the Earl of Durham, to the Fathers of Confederation and later leaders. And we will examine the roots of the separatist movement in Quebec and Canada's deliberately multicultural society today.

Section 1: Fridays, January 18 – March 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, 29 River St.

Section 2: **Saturdays**, January 19 – March 2 1:00- 3:00, Norman Williams Public Library

**Ron Miller** has taught numerous courses for the Learning Lab on American, Canadian and Vermont history as well as contemporary issues. He received a Ph.D. in American Studies from Boston University and previously taught at Goddard and Champlain colleges. He is the author or editor of nine books on educational history and philosophy, and another on Vermont independence. Ron is the coordinator for the Learning Lab and also serves on the board of Norman Williams Public Library.

## Of Moral Men and Pious Pigs

Dov Taylor

A few years ago I spoke at Bookstock about my translation of Joseph Perl's *Revealer of Secrets: The First Hebrew Novel* (1819)—an anti-hasidic epistolary satire that was the opening salvo in the culture war between the nascent Hasidism and Haskalah (the Jewish Enlightenment movement). My translation of Perl's sequel—*Testing the Righteous*—is almost ready for publication. It is a ripper and more complex work than its predecessor and, though it is of lesser literary value, it is far more important historically and ideologically. Participants in the course will gain insights into the conflicts that rent Eastern European Jewry at the dawn of modernity and foreshadowed the fragmentation of the Jewish community today.

Tuesdays, February 5 – 19 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. Norman Williams Public Library

**Dov Taylor** was ordained at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City in 1968 and did doctoral work in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. He has been a Smithsonian Institution Fellow in Jerusalem, a Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Centre for Post-graduate Hebrew Studies, and the Daniel Jeremy Silver Fellow at Harvard, as well as teaching at the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and at Brandeis. In 1997 Westview Press published his translation of the first Hebrew novel, which appeared in 1819. In 2013 he was invited to give a paper about his translation at a colloquium at the Hebrew University.

Dov founded and directed for twenty years an intensive summer study program in Hebrew and Judaica for teenagers, many of whom are today rabbis, cantors, academics or educators. In 2016, Dov organized and led an interfaith encounter in Israel and Palestine, the purpose of which was to meet Palestinians and Israelis, to see Israel's 50-year occupation of Palestine close-up, and to learn from organizations in which Israelis and Palestinians work together in pursuit of justice and peace.

Dov is Rabbi Emeritus at Congregation Solel in Highland Park, Illinois where he served for twenty-five years before coming to Woodstock.

## Winter Culinary Class

Basil Freddura and Claire Mayock

If you are a home cook who enjoys pleasing your family and dinner guests with tasty and interesting meals, this course is for you!

The Learning Lab once again has engaged 2 professional chefs, Basil Freddura and Claire Mayock, to demonstrate their skills at our popular culinary class on two separate nights. Class participants will be treated to a professional demonstration, have copies of the recipes to follow along, and have an opportunity to ask questions and learn some valuable kitchen techniques. Best of all you will get to sit down and enjoy the prepared recipes. This course has been historically sold out and last year we had to turn people away as it is limited in size so we recommend that you register quickly.

The cost of the course is \$65 (includes both nights) More details on the class and location will be provided as we get closer to the class date.

Mondays, February 25 and March 4, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Basil Fredurra** is from a culinary family whose parents opened the first Daily Catch Restaurant in Boston's North End in 1973. They now have 4 locations, the newest of which is on Central Street in Woodstock. Basil is a 2007 graduate of Johnson & Wales and is Executive Chef at the Boston location.

**Claire Mayock**, Executive Chef of Heart Rock Kitchen, is the owner of a very popular catering business which has served the Woodstock area well for many years. Her newest venture is serving a 3 course prix fixe meal on Wednesday evenings at her Sunset Farm location in the former Spooner's Restaurant space.

Learn more at:

The Daily Catch Restaurant [www.thedailycatch.com](http://www.thedailycatch.com)

Heart Rock Kitchen: [www.heartrockkitchen.com](http://www.heartrockkitchen.com)





## The Persistence of Racism: Part II

Margaret Edwards

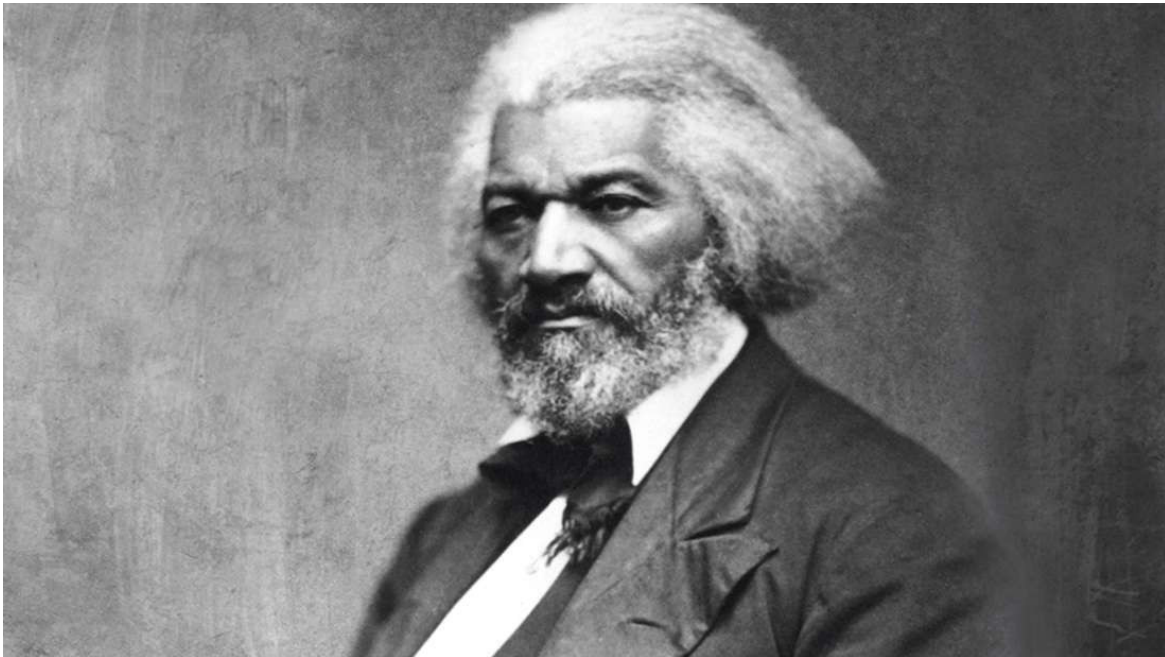
Never have class discussions I've led in Woodstock been more dynamic and insightful than those in this fall seminar's three sections. The topic seems to invite lively exchanges. If you didn't join Part I, I urge you to read its two texts—Harriet Beecher Stowe's 1851 novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Charles Dew's 2016 memoir *The Making of A Racist*—before the first class, and sign up for this winter's Part II. The texts to be studied in Part II will be the classic memoir *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass (1845) and the novel *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. All four books will be available in paperback at Yankee Book Shop in Woodstock.

Thursdays, January 17 - February 21

Mornings — Section 1: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at 29 River Street

Afternoons — Section 2: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at 22 The Green

**Margaret Edwards** spent 30 years as a professor of English at the University of Vermont. Her specialty was Modern & Contemporary American Poetry. She also taught writing seminars, including one entitled “Expository Writing: the Personal Voice.” On her retirement in 2001, she moved from Burlington to Barnard, Vermont, where she and her husband now live. She earned her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University.



Frederick Douglass (1818 – 1895)

# A Conservation History with Woodstock's National Park

Rolf Diamant, Vikke Jas, and Park staff

The conservation legacies of the three families after whom Woodstock's national park is named represent a microcosm of many of the themes that defined the larger environmental movements of the 19th and 20th Centuries. The first half of this course dives deep into that history, while the second half explores how the national park is carrying conservation work into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Each session features a different activity – from reading-based discussions, to an art tour in the families' mansion, to a walk in the woods (weather permitting).

Participants will learn about the life of George Perkins Marsh and read excerpts from his great work *Man and Nature*, consider the Billings family and their conservation work during the Gilded Age, and become better acquainted with the philanthropy, ecotourism and other conservation work of the Rockefellers. Then we will learn how the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park became established in Woodstock and how it is contributing to sustainable forestry practices and conservation leadership today.

Thursdays, January 17 - February 21, 2:00 -4:00 p.m  
The Forest Center at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

**Rolf Diamant** is retired from a 37-year career with the National Park Service, having served as superintendent of several national historical parks and sites including Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and Olmsted Archives, Lowell National Historical Park, Longfellow House Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. He currently serves on the faculty of UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources.

**Vikke Jas** holds a B.S., M.S. and a Ph.D in the Environmental Sciences and Studies fields. She teaches environmental science and natural history and runs an environmental consulting practice. She lives five minutes from George Perkins Marsh boyhood home, and has served as dedicated volunteer at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Several Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park staff will serve as session instructors, including Park Curator Ryan Polk and Natural Resource Manager Kyle Jones, as well as representatives of the park's Facility Management division, and the National Park Service Stewardship Institute, which is housed at the park.



Founded in 1999 as WESAW (Winter Education Series at Woodstock), the Learning Lab provides a high quality adult education experience that is open to all.

A volunteer-run organization, the Learning Lab charges modest fees for its courses, which may be reduced or waived for those on limited income.

Contact the Learning Lab by email: [tllwoodstock@gmail.com](mailto:tllwoodstock@gmail.com)  
or by phone at (802) 310-2169



**[www.thelearninglabwoodstock.com](http://www.thelearninglabwoodstock.com)**