Noontime Adventures
by Henry Baron

I’ve been going through drawers and boxes with files lately. Aging sort of seems to dictate that activity. Opening files of a passing life unleashes memories, feelings, and reflections. But here I want to talk about one file only – my Noontime Series file. For a dozen years or so I had the privilege, with the Public Events Committee of CALL, of persuading presenters to come to a Thursday Noontime to tell us, and often show us, what we should know and, perhaps, do.

So I go through my file of posters and intros, and I’m back on Lake Michigan. Yes, I’ve crossed it with a ferry more than once, have run its beach fronts, sailed on it, had its waves assault my body, reveled in the splendor of many a sunset. But it was Valerie van Heest who told and showed the Noontimers about the dozens of ships that lie on the bottom of that magnificent lake and the host of bodies that never surfaced. Like the Armistice Day Blizzard of 1940 in which five massive freighters and 67 sailors sank to the bottom in the roiling waters off West Michigan. And the Northwest airliner that disappeared over the lake with 58 souls onboard who were never recovered.

Now I’m in Iran. I hear the story of one mentored by Muslims for twenty-five years. At some point, unbidden but irresistible, the love of God enters the heart and mind of this young woman. It grows and will not let her go. Thus, she must let go of nearly all that had meant everything: a prestigious job, home, friends, and family to escape to a place where she can be free to practice her faith in Christ and taste the peace of God. I’m deeply moved by this dangerous and self-losing faith journey.

And then I’m in Israel with David Crump and Marlin & Sally Vis. I hear and see the hatred and violence and discrimination practiced in that conflicted country where Jesus walked and talked. And I’m deeply troubled. But also deeply impressed and hopeful to hear a father who lost a daughter to suicide bombers say: “We keep knocking our heads against this wall of hatred until we put little cracks in it.” I’m reminded to pray more for those who really do try to live more like Jesus in the land he loved.

Oh yes, there’s Rev. Ed Dobson in an advanced stage of ALS nearly filling the Chapel when he spoke about the year he tried to live like Jesus! He’s passed on now, but the message coming from that emaciated body spoke of the kind of courage and faith that continues to inspire.

I keep paging through the files, and I’m reminded of the Grand Rapids area students who had to be rescued from mortal danger in Kenya, of people with face blindness who remember names and voices but not faces, of children who are sex trafficked in our own city, of the need to reach out to the prisoners who are often dehumanized instead of rehabilitated, of the refugees who’ve come to Grand Rapids in need of a place and a purpose among us.

There’s so much more, of course. But let me just say that I’m grateful for the part I could have for some years. And I trust that the Noontime Series Adventures will continue to feed the mind and spirit of all who come. If you’re among those who don’t know what they have been missing, heed CALL’s invitation to find out this spring and watch for the new title and time beginning this fall!
After some of the worst winter weather weeks behind us, we end our hiatus between Passport Films and return to the Covenant Fine Arts Center on Wednesday, February 27, at 7:00 pm, for Cuba’s Secret Side with cinematographer Karin Muller.

Five decades after Castro’s revolution, Cuba’s Secret Side explores Cuba’s dual personality: the side seen on newsreels and by tourists, and the reality lived by its vibrant and astoundingly diverse people.

Knowing that the Cuban government severely restricts all foreign journalists, Karin Muller took an enormous risk—when she set out to film a documentary on a simple tourist visa.

Free of government eyes, she hitchhiked around Cuba for three months—sleeping in private homes, working with farmers and fishermen, and participating in festivals and religious ceremonies. She was arrested over a dozen times, but in the end, she captured on film a side of Cuba that few foreigners ever see.

Cubans joke that the revolution has three successes: education, health care, and social equality; and three failures: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Cuba’s Secret Side uncovers the truth behind the revolution by sharing in the day-to-day lives of ordinary Cubans—such as accompanying a small-town doctor on house calls and investigating food distribution and housing. The film traces the post-revolution economic history of Cuba through the fall of the Soviet Union and subsequent Special Period, the thriving black market, recent legalization of private businesses, introduction of second currency, and gradual opening to foreign tourism.

Karin will join us by Skype as she did two years ago, when we first introduced Karin to our audience with a film on a Sudanese refugee camp.

Our fourth film in the lineup is presented on Wednesday, March 13, in a unique and riveting style new to our audience. Familiar with our campus after presenting several films in recent years, Rick Ray joins us to share an evening of storytelling. From sneaking past the Khmer Rouge to outrunning Somali bandits, director / cinematographer Rick Ray shares the stories behind his most compelling footage.

Rick also gives tips on how to get past angry Indian mobs and how to talk your way out of Ethiopian jails. Be mesmerized by stories, photos and clips from decades of misadventures as you flirt with international danger and intrigue. A former Lonely Planet backpacker turned cinematographer, writer and director Rick Ray has produced more than twelve films on regions as diverse as Israel, Bali, Borneo, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Syria and Iceland.

The cost for single tickets is $6. Guests can order by calling the box office at 526-6282, after 10:30am. You can also buy tickets the evening of the show beginning at 6:00 pm. All seats are reserved.

We recommend parking across the Beltline and using the elevated crosswalk to the main campus. The distance is shorter and easier than you would expect, well-lit, and provides elevator access on the west end.
Public Events,
Bob DeBruin, Chair

The Noontime spring lectures are Thursdays at noon. All lectures are without charge and open to CALL members, the public, Calvin faculty, staff, and students, and your friends. The location for this spring’s lectures changes many times so please take special note of the different venues.

The second lecture of the series is Thursday, February 28, at the Calvin Chapel. Douglas Cupery, Church Mobilization Director for Crossroads Prison Ministries, presents a lecture titled *I Was in Prison and You Visited Me.*

Often hidden and not talked about, the prisoner is forgotten by society. We assume once a person is convicted, sentenced, and incarcerated that the problem is taken care of. Yet the story of the prisoner does not, nor should not, end there. The story of the prisoner has profound effects in our community and within our families. Jesus says that when we visit the prisoner we visit Him. If this is true, shouldn’t we be lining up and pounding on the prison doors to let us in? Yet often, we as the Church are often silent in speaking into the punishment, refinement, and restoration of the prisoner. This talk will cover the scope of incarceration and what role as the church plays.

On March 14, we move lecture locations to the Calvin Center Art Gallery in the Covenant Fine Arts Center. A rare and unique location for a lecture, this third presentation in our Noontime Series describes the plight of the honey bee and coincides with an art gallery exhibition opening March 7, with Craig Goodworth and David Hooker.

Our lecture, *What’s Buzzing All Year,* will explain why the honey bee is in trouble. A steep increase in honey bee colony losses has been reported around the globe in recent years. Bees have been of high value and fascination to humans for millennia—venerated, yet feared. The way a hive of bees lives and works tirelessly in the service of its queen and to produce the marvelous golden honey, is a living mystery. This lecture is a basic overview of a year in beekeeping. We will learn the equipment and the never-ending work of a beekeeper, honey bee biology, their role in our food supply, and the biggest threats to honey bees.

Come early or stay late for the opportunity to stroll among the art exhibits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28-Feb</td>
<td>Douglas Cupery</td>
<td><em>I Was in Prison and You Visited Me</em></td>
<td>Calvin Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-Mar</td>
<td>Jason Googins</td>
<td><em>What’s Buzzing All Year</em></td>
<td>Center Art Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-Apr</td>
<td>Suzanne McDonald</td>
<td><em>Holy Saturday: Insights from a Neglected Day in Holy Week</em></td>
<td>Calvin Chapel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Announcements

by Sonja DeJong, CALL Program Manager

Final Monthly Newsletter
Recent changes to our mailing process, higher prices, and a reduced interest in this newsletter have resulted in a decision by the CALL board to end this 10x/year publication.

The bi-weekly e-news which has more popularity among our members will remain as the primary method of communication to CALL members. Only about 30 members are without email, and they will receive a mailed version of the e-news.

We will continue to mail news publications three times annually with each of our course catalogs: spring, summer, and fall. Those mailings occur in January, April, and August. Additionally, summary sheets for lectures, events, and trips will always be available in Hiemenga Hall.

Spring Courses

We have twenty-four courses in our first session beginning this month. You can still register for these first session courses. There’s room for you!

Beginning:
Tuesday, Feb 26
#7 Into the Quagmire: Vietnam

Wednesday, Feb 20
#13- Mary Oliver

Wednesday, Feb 27
#11- Buddhism
#14- Cancer: The Enemy Within
#15- My First White Friend
#16- Brexit, Deal or No Deal

Thursday, Feb 21
#18- The First Century
#22- Stamp Collecting
#24- The Poem as Serious Play

Online and In Person
Course #34 Justice: What it is and Why It Matters begins on March 27, with Nick Wolterstorff in the Calvin Chapel. Unique to any course offered in this program, anyone else around the country can enroll and pay only the course fee of $30. Interested persons make an account and search by instructor Wolterstorff to narrow the selection. After enrollment, a livestream link and private password is emailed one week before the course start date. Thus far, over 100 persons locally and around the country have enrolled for the Justice course with registrations including places as far away as British Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Taiwan.

Gardening Interest Group
It has been some years since we offered an interest group on gardening. We have a CALL member willing to help plan activities with additional volunteers. If you are interested, please email or call our office.

Birding Interest Group Dates
Members of CALL are invited to explore nature and enjoy God’s amazing creation! Bill Sweetman leads our birding interest group again this spring 2019. He facilitates outings on the following Thursdays: April 18, 25, May 2, 9, and 16.

We will meet at the entrance (gatehouse) to the north parking lot (#13) on the east side of the East Beltline just north of the Bunker Interpretive Center at 8:15 am, weather permitting.

For questions and to be added to the email list, please contact Bill at bsweettours@gmail.com.
Member Events
Amy Shellenbarger, Chair

Love Thy Neighbor Interfaith Tour
Friday, March 15, 9:00 am

Already half full, the Interfaith Tour returns for a second year but to different locations. If you joined us last year or have not yet attended, this event is relevant to everyone! This year, you’ll have the chance to visit a Hindu Temple and a different Islamic Mosque.

Spend a day learning about the Hindu and Muslim members of our Grand Rapids and how they practice their faith. The bus will depart at 9:30 a.m. from the Prince Conference Center and make our first stop at the West Michigan Hindu Temple, where our host will provide a tour and an overview of the Hindu faith and the differences with Christianity.

At noon, we'll travel to the first mosque established in Grand Rapids, the Islamic Center and Mosque. Here, we'll enjoy a buffet lunch, featuring a selection of typical Middle Eastern food, including baklava for dessert. Our host, the Director/Imam, will provide us with an overview of the Islamic faith and invite us to observe the 2:00 pm prayer service.

We’ll arrive back at the Prince Conference Center about 3:00 p.m. with a renewed understanding of how other members of our community practice their faith.

Cost is $45.00 per person. For questions, email Amy at amyshellenbarger@gmail.com or phone the CALL office.

Dinner and a Play
Peter and the Starcatcher
Saturday, April 6, 5:30pm

Calvin Theater Company is presenting Peter and the Starcatcher. Don't miss this fabulous show!

This exciting play is the prequel to the Peter Pan story. An orphan and his new friend, Molly, face pirates and thieves in their quest to keep certain magical things secret and to save the world from evil. It is performed in a theatrical story-telling style. For the avid readers, this is based on the first book in the Peter and the Starcatcher series. Captain Hook is introduced as Black Stache.

The evening begins with a delectable dinner at the Chapel Undercroft where we are also treated to a short lecture by the play director, Professor Debra Freeberg. The meal features rosemary-roasted pork loin topped with gorgonzola cream sauce and served with parmesan mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, salad, rolls and dessert.

Cost is 37.00 per person. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm with a 7:30 performance in the Gezon Theatre. For questions, email Edy at borgondy@gmail.com.

We are able to accommodate dietary restrictions and ask that you please contact the CALL office.

Member Events Registration

Two ways to register:

1. Online: www.calvin.edu/CALL > My Account>Semester drop-down tab> Event Registration-Fall and Spring 2018-2019
2. Complete this form (make checks payable to CALL) and send to CALL, Youngsma Center, 3201 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Event fees are per person. CALL will notify you if an event has filled. A reminder is sent two weeks before the event.

☐ Friday, March 15 Love Thy Neighbor Interfaith Tour
☐ Saturday, April 6 Peter and the Starcatcher

Name (s): ____________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________
Confirm by email? ☐ Yes ☐ No, I don’t use email
Extended Trips
by John Apol

2019 Destinations
The following trips are filled:
Greece April 27-May 11
Greece May 11-April 25
Pacific Northwest September 14-24

Southern Spain, March 14-24, 2019
Filled, although additional interested persons can still join if they are willing to pay the prevailing airfare costs.

Cultural Jewels of the United Kingdom, July 25-August 8
Still accepting registration, the tour cost of $6,444 includes round trip flights from Chicago, with airport transport from Grand Rapids to Chicago for passengers from West Michigan. The cost also includes an intra-tour flight from Dublin to London, 13 nights of accommodations, and tickets to two theater performances.

From the prehistoric Britons, Gaels, Celts, and Picts through Vikings, Romans, and Normans, wave after wave of conquerors and migrants have shaped the United Kingdom, and most have left fascinating traces for visitors to explore.

Thatched cottages, fairytale castles, soaring cathedrals, stately mansions—the UK has them all. The half-timbered streets of Chester look like something out of Disney, except they are real and they are really old. So much of what gives the UK its unique appeal for visitors is the look of its heritage buildings—the stuff of dream and story.

The forces of nature—of wind, seas, and ice—have combined to give this relatively small, island kingdom an amazing variety of landscapes—all within reasonably short distances of each other. No one in the UK is ever more than two hours from the sea. There are mountains and ranges of majestic hills, rolling farmlands, wild heaths and moors, exquisite lakes and lochs and gentle, lovely valleys and streams.

We invite you to explore the rich cultural and literary history of Ireland, England, and Scotland. You will walk the footsteps of famous writers, enjoy backstage tours at multiple theatres, and be among the audience in world-famous venues. You’ll have a chance to shop at Harrods Department Store, tour the Guinness factory, as well as London’s Parliament building.

Leading the trip is Calvin Communications professor Debra Freeberg.

Southwest History and Missions, October 4-16
At the absolutely most scenic time of the year, you are invited to visit the spectacular Southwest, touring ancient sites and learning the recent history involving the encounters of the varied peoples of the Southwest. We will visit many of the places you have on your life list—the Santa Fe/ Taos, Navajo and Canyon de Chelly, Zuni, southern Arizona, and southern California regions.

Meeting with Native Americans and hearing from National Park Rangers, we will learn about what took place and what is now taking place in New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

This tour begins in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and ends in San Diego, California. Along with visits to various mission sites founded by Franciscans and Jesuits, there will be visits to Christian Reformed missions and churches in the area.

(Continued pg. 7)
Gary Nederveld, your tour leader, is a former international program director for World Renew. He has lived in and now regularly visits the Southwest states, spending much of the winter in southern Arizona where he volunteers as a docent at Tumacacori National Historical Park.

Stratford- Now open
Just opened for registration is this summer’s Stratford Festival from June 19-21, with leaders Gary Schmidt and Debra Freeberg.

Four expertly-selected plays and one musical are scheduled: Othello, Neverending Story, Mother’s Daughter, Nathan the Wise, and Billy Elliot the musical. It might seem like a lot, but this tour has enough downtime for daily discussions around the plays, free time in between shows, and daily group dinners. One of the days you’ll even get backstage on a tour of the Festival Theatre. The following is a short synopsis on each selection.

Othello-When Passion Meets Poison: Undeterred by the differences in their backgrounds and life experiences, Othello and Desdemona defy prejudice to be united in marriage. But deadly malice lurks where the newlyweds least expect it, as the one man Othello trusts the most, resolves to destroy their happiness at any cost.

The Neverending Story: Hiding in a closet to avoid school bullies, ten-year-old Bastian becomes immersed in a strangely compelling book: the tale of a hero’s quest to save the realm of Fantastica from the encroaching terror of the Nothing. Filled with spectacle and wondrous other-worldly creatures, this beautiful tale of the trials of childhood and the triumph of creativity will delight and inspire the whole family.

Mother’s Daughter, The Making of a Killer Queen: Upon the death of Edward VI, the princess Mary – daughter of Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon – easily wrests the throne from Edward’s official heir. But Mary remains haunted by her mother’s ghost, urging her toward the course that will earn her the nickname of Bloody Mary. Following The Last Wife and The Virgin Trial, this fascinating exploration of women, power and the nature of leadership concludes Hennig’s brilliant Queenmaker Trilogy.

Nathan the Wise: In twelfth-century Jerusalem, a wealthy Jew whose daughter loves a Christian faces a dangerous question from the Muslim sultan: which is the one true faith? Nathan responds wisely and well, but subsequent surprising discoveries offer an even more persuasive answer to religious divides.

Billy Elliot: Dreams don’t come easily in the hardscrabble mining town, split by a bitter national strike, where eleven-year-old Billy lives with his bereaved family. But Billy’s discovery of his talent for dance awakens in him a passion that will transform his life and win the hearts of his whole community. With its inspirational story, breathtaking dance numbers and music by pop legend Elton John, this fresh new take on the smash-hit show – reimagined for Stratford – will appeal to all.

We expect the next trips to open for registration will be the China trip in October with Don De Graaf and Hawaii trip in January 2020, with geologist Gerry Van Kooten. For more information about current or upcoming trips, visit our website and choose the Extended Trips tab.

Continued pg 8
To join the interest lists for any upcoming trips, please email call@calvin.edu and specify your interest. Here’s what we’re planning:

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
<td>October, 2019</td>
<td>Don De Graaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hawaii</strong></td>
<td>January, 2020</td>
<td>Gerry Van Kooten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Land</strong></td>
<td>March 9-21, 2020</td>
<td>Bill Vanden Bosch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Florence and Dante</strong></td>
<td>May, 2020</td>
<td>Jennifer Holberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Netherlands</strong></td>
<td>September, 2020</td>
<td>Henk Aay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnam and Cambodia</strong></td>
<td>November, 2020</td>
<td>Jim Bratt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Biggest Discount Ever Offered!**

This spring, CALL will pay $15 of the $25 fee for you to walk/run in the Calvin 5K on Saturday, April 27, at 8:30 am. This price is valid until April 1 (there is a $2.00 processing fee). Each participant will receive a short-sleeved shirt to commemorate their achievement and proceeds will benefit a college scholarship fund! Sign up at https://calvin.edu/events/spring-classic/. Add the discount code CALL2019 in the Coupon Code box on the last page where you enter your credit card information. This code is valid for CALL members only.