

## Morning Groups 2013

### Academic Game Design

Convener: David Stewart [David.Stewart@csulb.edu](mailto:David.Stewart@csulb.edu)

We will play the "University Game" in a beta-test (written by SVHE members, work on revisions, discuss game-design issues suggested by Proctor's "Reacting to the Past Game Designer's Handbook," and play "chapter" excerpts from Fellows' games such as Berger's "Earthquake Game."

### Celebrating the Search

Convener: Carol Ochs [cochs@earthlink.net](mailto:cochs@earthlink.net)

**Celebrating the Search** has a lot to celebrate! We've been at this for close to 30 years and our provisional line up for this year takes the cake. (And there is still room for you to join us with your fascinating reflections)

Kathleen Banchoff will be speaking and Trudy Cunningham will try to express what she's learned about God's love through some very grave difficulties in the past 2 or 3 years; Al McQueen will present *Does the Struggle Ever End?*; Gayle Bray (whom we've missed and now she's back) will share what it was like to grow up in the Amana Church and Bob Spivey (with the help of his wife Martha and their daughter Hope) will speak about *A President's Journey*. So come join us.

Carol Ochs

### Historical Fiction

Convener: Mary Papke [papke@utk.edu](mailto:papke@utk.edu)

We will read four books loosely connected through the theme of debt. Our first reading will be the 2009 Man Booker Prize-winning *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, set in England in the 1520s and featuring Thomas Cromwell and Henry VIII (facilitator—Nancy Cunningham). Our second book is Andrew Miller's *Pure*, short-listed for the Man Booker Prize and the 2011 Costa Award winner for both Best Novel and Book of the Year. Set in pre-revolutionary Paris in 1785, it follows an engineer who has been commissioned by Louis XVI with emptying out the overflowing cemetery of Les Innocents (facilitators—Melanie Smith-Guillaume and Alfred Guillaume). Our third book is George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda*, what one critic calls "the final and comprehensive expression of George Eliot's idealism" (facilitator—Tom Stockdale). The final book is Abraham Cahan's *The Rise of David Levinsky*, the tale of a Russian Jewish immigrant who seeks attaining the American Dream through the garment industry; it was acclaimed by Carl Van Doren as "the most important of all immigrant novels" (facilitator—Mary Papke). Join us for spirited conversation.

### Pop Culture

Conveners: Judy Meschel [meschelja@aol.com](mailto:meschelja@aol.com) and Sylvia Skaggs McTague [sylvia.mctague@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia.mctague@gmail.com)

We will consider representations of debt and related obligations in pop culture, and in turn, how they shape our sense of identity. We have two presentations so far--"Debt, Money, and

*Identity in Pop Music*" and "*How Kink Goes Mainstream and Does Not Follow the Patterns of Other Sites of Power.*" We are looking for more proposals for presentations and examples of production uses of pop culture from group members.

### **Sustainability: Exploring Solutions**

**Convener: Jo Margaret Mano** [manoj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:manoj@newpaltz.edu)

We will examine aspects of sustainability and environmental planning, seeking to discover solutions to these challenging issues. We are planning a field trip focusing on a local issue, continuing our practice of linking some of our discussions to the meeting venue, by discovering more about Denver. Our planned field-trip this year will be led by Geographer Doug Genzer who works into Denver's Geographic Information System (GIS) division and created a prize-winning map of Denver's bike paths. He'll take us "To Google Earth and Beyond!" and explain how computer mapping helps to find environmental solutions. We will also consider "Weird" weather and climate change, and how satellites collect the information used in global climate models. We will integrate poems and short prose readings on nature and the weather from participants, and embrace environmental art. We can integrate other proposed presentations and readings from interested participants that relate to our theme.

We welcome newcomers and friends to share in our tradition of including diverse perspectives and shared concerns. We invite all to share in our group, and look forward to seeing you!

### **Theorizing Culture**

**Conveners: Eric Bain-Selbo** [bain-selbo@svhe.org](mailto:bain-selbo@svhe.org) and **Allen Dunn** [ardunn@utk.edu](mailto:ardunn@utk.edu)

This year the group will be engaged in a close reading of several chapters of David Graeber's **Debt: The First 5,000 Years**. At least one of the mornings will be devoted to reviewing critical reviews of Graeber's work. Suggestions or questions should be directed to Allen Dunn ([ardunn@utk.edu](mailto:ardunn@utk.edu)) or Eric Bain-Selbo ([bain-selbo@svhe.org](mailto:bain-selbo@svhe.org)).