Senior Peers Actively Renewing Knowledge

SPARK
Where learning lasts a lifetime...

WINTER 2019
Schedule of Courses and Activities
Classes Begin Monday, January 14

Phone: 816-235-2870
E-mail: uprightj@umkc.edu
Visit our website: spark.umkc.edu or
Web search: UMKC SPARK

SPARK is an affiliate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City
SPARK stands for *Senior Peers Actively Renewing Knowledge*. We are a lifelong learning organization for active retirees. SPARK has been offering classes and other activities in the Kansas City area since 1993. We are a non-profit organization with over 200 members and an affiliate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**Our Mission**

SPARK’s mission is to provide lifelong learning opportunities, through intellectually stimulating, cultural and social experiences which enhance the quality of life for SPARK members.

**Who Are We?**

We are “Happy Wonderers” – interesting, curious, educated persons with a passion for continued learning, meeting new people, sharing time and experiences and pursuing an active, stimulating life. SPARK is a volunteer organization that relies on the participation of members to promote and achieve its mission.

Classes are held four semesters a year, two to three hours a week for two to six weeks. There are no tests or exams. SPARK also offers several social activities throughout the year.

Membership dues are $40.00. Annual membership renewal is in January. Members joining after May 1 during any year will pay $20.00 and will pay full membership the following January.

**Membership is REQUIRED to enroll in our classes and activities.**

**All classes are held at the SPARK Office unless otherwise noted.**

***********************

**Monday, January 21 (Martin Luther King Day)**

the University will be CLOSED.

Monday SPARK classes will begin on **Monday, January 14,**

skip January 21 and continue until **February 25.**

If the university is closed because of inclement weather,

SPARK classes will **NOT** be held.

Please listen to local media outlets for updates.

***********************
TABLE OF CONTENTS

~~ CLASSES ~~

** Due to MLK Day, Monday Classes will skip January 21 **

**Mondays, January 14 thru February 25**
- The Early Formation of Political Parties (5 weeks) ........................................ 4
- Genealogy (3 weeks) .................................................................................................. 5
- Mind and Consciousness in Life, Death, and In-Between ................................. 6

**Tuesdays, January 15 thru February 19**
- Western Civilization: Post-Colonial Africa ................................................................. 7
- Kansas City Gems ........................................................................................................... 8-10

**Wednesdays, January 16 thru February 20**
- Western Civilization: Post-Colonial Africa ................................................................. 7
- The Big Picture: Contemporary Non-Fiction Articles (4 weeks) .......... 11
- Game “Play” Days (2 Weeks) .................................................................................... 11

**Thursdays, January 17 thru February 21**
- Basics of Buddhism ..................................................................................................... 12
- Nelson-Atkins Museum Art Tours ............................................................................... 13
- Immigrant or Refugee: Navigation the Path to Citizenship ................................ 14-15

~~ SPECIAL TOURS ~~

**Friday, January 18**
- Tour of 21c Museum Hotel .......................................................................................... 16

**Friday, February 22**
- Tour of Marr Sound Archives and LaBudde Special Collections ........ 17

~~ CLUBS and GROUPS ~~

- “Let’s Eat Out” Group (meets Fridays) ................................................................. 18
- Margaret Sturges’ Book Club (meets 3rd Monday) .................................... 19
- Thursday Book Club (meets 4th Thursday) ................................................. 19

~~ MISC. INFORMATION ~~

- Scholarships ............................................................................................................... 18
- Membership and Class Registration ................................................................. 20
- Parking and Parking Tags ....................................................................................... 21
- Officers, Board of Directors & Committees ....................................................... 22
- How to Contact Us .................................................................................................... 23
- Calendar of Classes and Events ............................................................................... 23
The Early Formation of Political Parties
January 14 – February 18 (5 weeks)
Mondays, 10:00 - Noon

(No Class on 1/21 due to MLK Day)

If you have a dubious view of our political parties, you are in good company, so did George Washington. In his famous farewell address, he wrote that a political party, "agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one party against another, foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption.” Seem familiar?

To help us better understand the role of political parties in today’s world, we will examine the formalization of constitutional governments in England and the United States of America with emphasis on the development of political parties and their influence on governance in the United States through 1860.

Class Fee: $30

Instructor: Al Gumbs earned a degree in physics at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute and held positions in the Charles Pfizer drug company and Western Electric. While with Western Electric, he helped develop the first computer defense system in the United States. He has taught SPARK classes in computers, history, the Middle East and President James Polk. He has had a special affinity for the history of the United States ever since first studying it in elementary school.
Genealogy
January 14, 28 and February 4 (3 weeks)
Mondays, 1:00 – 3:30

(No Class on 1/21 due to MLK Day)

Please note: this is a 3-week class for 2.5 hrs. each.
Warning: genealogy is very addictive!!

It is no surprise that genealogy is becoming one of the top hobbies in America. Finding our family’s roots is fascinating, extremely gratifying and a wonderful gift for your family. Join us in this introduction to researching family history. We’ll look at available records, sources, methods and pitfalls. We’ll discuss the ten most productive documents you can find. You will learn how to systematically get started, build your family tree and keep going! Bring some names and approximate dates, and we’ll determine how to find your family origins and research them. Census, passenger and military records, and city directories all tell stories about your ancestors’ lives. We will explore simple ways to pull this information together for your history.

Dr. Corcoran welcomes all those who have taken her past SPARK classes and looks forward to continuing to help them in their searches for their family roots.

Class Fee: $25

Instructor: Mary E. Corcoran, Ph.D. is a management consultant in private practice, specializing in a wide variety of training and consulting for Fortune 500 companies, as well as federal and state agencies. Her B.A. degree, Master of Arts and Doctorate in counseling were granted from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is an avid genealogist, and counts over 10,000 individuals in her family trees.
American popular culture is saturated with books, movies, and TV shows about abduction by space aliens, out-of-body and near-death experiences, as well as the clinically dead being brought back to life to tell stories of talking to dead family members, etc. The most remarkable fact about these reports is that they are all based entirely on the memory of the individuals who had the alleged experience. And except for alien abduction (which is not usually classified as a "supernatural" event anyway), there is no known way to check the veracity of the reporter's memory, much less its correspondence to any objective reality (natural or supernatural).

This course will try to arrive at answers to several questions:

(1) Even if individuals who report having such experiences are patently honest and sincere, and are (often) powerfully moved by them, does this allow us to draw any conclusion about the objective truth of what they say?

(2) Are there adequate (or at least plausible) scientific explanations of why individuals have these extraordinary experiences?

(3) What significance do these experiences have for our understanding of human nature and our need for meaning and purpose in life?


Class Fee $30

Instructor: David H. Jones is a Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. He began teaching political philosophy and philosophy of law at the University of Kansas (1962-67). He spent most of his teaching career at the College of William and Mary where he taught philosophy of the mind for several decades. He has taught a number of courses for SPARK during the last ten years.
This semester we’ll continue our study of the independence movements that liberated African nations during the Cold War. We’ll begin by returning to Kenya in 1963 during the presidency of Jomo Kenyatta and examine the challenges confronted by successive administrations. Next we’ll turn our attention to the Congo and Patrice Lumumba’s struggle for independence from Belgium. A victim of Cold War politics, he’ll be executed and replaced by Joseph Mobutu, a tyrannical dictator favored by the West. Unfortunately, many of the problems confronting the Congo today have their roots in the post-colonial period. And finally, we’ll study Zimbabwe and South Africa, two British colonies that initially transferred power to small white minorities. Today of course, that has changed, but both nations continue to struggle with the aftermath of European imperialism. This semester we’ll continue to try to understand the present by studying the past.

Class Fee: $30

Instructor: Carol McCavitt has been teaching for SPARK since 2000. Before moving to Kansas City, Carol was a high school teacher on Long Island, where she taught Advanced Placement European History for 20 years. Educated as an undergraduate at SUNY at Stony Brook, Carol completed her Master’s Degree at Queens College in NYC and did her doctoral work at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Pre-Registration for this Class is Required and Limited to 40 in Each Class.
To ensure your place in the class, please register by January 10.

Because this class is very popular, you must pre-register. We need an accurate enrollment count before classes begin. NO registrations will be accepted on the first day of class.

The comfort and safety of our members is paramount and therefore we want to avoid an over-crowded classroom. You need to register for either Tuesday or Wednesday. If on occasion you need to attend the alternate day, that is permissible but hopefully the exception.

If you wait until the class registration deadline, this class may be FULL.
KANSAS CITY GEMS

Kansas City Gems
January 15 – February 19 (6 weeks)
Tuesdays, 1:30 – 3:00

DIFFERENT TOPICS — DIFFERENT PRESENTERS — EACH WEEK

Members may enroll in all six of the classes for $25 or “drop-in” for $5.00 each. Non-Members: first visit free.

Please pre-register for all Gem classes you plan to attend. We need to determine the possible attendance.

Week 1: 1/15
Stowers institute for Medical Research
Presenter: George Satterlee, Executive Vice President

The Stowers Institute for Medical Research, founded by Jim Stowers and his wife Virginia in 2000, is a world-class basic biomedical research organization focused on improving our understanding of fundamental mechanisms of biology and using this knowledge to guide the development of innovative treatments to improve human health. It is home to about 500 researchers and support personnel and over 20 independent research programs

George Satterlee, Vice President of Human Resources, joined Stowers in 2016. Satterlee received a B.A. degree in business administration and political science from Westminster College and a M.L.A. degree in philosophy from Baker University.

Week 2: 1/22
Histories, Mysteries and Curiosities
Presenter: Sam Gill

An historical storyteller rather than a lecturer, Sam Gill helps us see history through the eyes of the people who were making it. In this presentation, we will take a close look at two of the seemingly most baffling puzzles of ancient and modern times - the tale of the lost continent Atlantis and the new conundrum of The Bermuda Triangle.

Instructor Sam Gill taught a logic course for 15 years at Johnson County Community College and classes at Metropolitan Community College. In retirement, he has presented a variety of subjects on radio and television and to groups like The Civil War Round Table, Rotary Club and John Knox Village. His articles have appeared in several publications including The Humanist and The Skeptical Enquirer.
Week 3: 1/29
Book "Hemingway at Eighteen: The Pivotal Year That Launched an America Legend"
Presenter: Author Steve Paul

This book traces a transformational period as the young man from Oak Park, IL leaves home, enters the world of journalism and experiences the brutal realities of war. It delves deeper than any previous biography into the education, in lieu of college, that Hemingway received on the streets of Kansas City. The book has garnered wide acclaim and earned awards from the Jackson County Historical Society and Historic Kansas City.

Steve Paul was a writer and editor at The Kansas City Star for more than 40 years before retiring in 2016. He's a native of Boston, a graduate of UMKC, a onetime bookstore owner, former board member of the National Book Critics Circle and current board member of various organizations in Kansas City.

Week 4: 2/5
KC Clay Guild
Presenter: John Devaney

The KC Clay Guild, Inc. is a not for profit corporation whose mission is to promote the appreciation of and participation in ceramic arts through group and individual education programs, public outreach and the creation of a diverse ceramic arts community. The Guild has a full service ceramics studio at 200 W. 74th Street, Kansas City, Missouri and offers classes to both adults and children.

John M. Devaney, Board Member and Chair of the KC Clay Guild’s Education Committee, will provide a presentation on the Clay Guild and how active Seniors can participate in the ceramics activities the Guild has to offer.

John will provide detail on the ceramic process, from creation, either by throwing on a potter’s wheel or building by hand, to decorating and final kiln firing. Although John had taken an entry level ceramics course in college, it was another 40 years before he became active in ceramics and the Guild. Having become involved later in life, he will provide his opinions on the opportunities and benefits offered to Seniors by the physical and creative process of making clay pots, sculptures and other objects.
Week 5: 2/12
What You Don’t Know About the Atlantic Slave Trade
Presenter: Hibberd V. B. Kline, III

Despite its influence on today’s society, the details of the slave trade are not well known. From 1492 until approximately 1870, roughly eleven million Africans were carried to ports throughout the Americas. This trade was one of the most complex and largest maritime commercial undertakings in human history, and its legacy permeates modern life throughout the Americas.

Hib Kline is the author of Conflicting Loyalties, a retired attorney (UVA Juris Doctorate; MO Bar since 1975), retired U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Colonel, Harvard College Phi Beta Kappa graduate in History, and occasional Civil War re-enactor. As a child, he spent a year in Sierra Leone, British West Africa, the first major slave trade source and the port where the Royal Navy unloaded slave cargoes.

Week 6: 2/19
The Buck Stops Here! Harry Truman
Presenter: Raymond Starzmann, Re-enactor & Historian

In Starzmann's role as Harry Truman, he has made appearances for over 18 years in 12 states and is a regular at the Truman Library. He has worked with National Road Scholar Travel as guide and presenter along with doing "Meet the Past" as Truman for the Kansas City Public Library. Speaking extemporaneously from vast personal research while in character, Starzmann educates and entertains. Starzmann states, "I am a Re-enactor and a Historian. When I speak, I believe if you put a face on history...history is more accessible."

Raymond T. Starzmann (b. 1945) has had a lifelong passion for politics and the American Presidency. He earned a Political Science degree from Park University in Parkville, Missouri.
The Big Picture: Contemporary Non-Fiction Articles
January 16 – February 6 (4 weeks)
Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:30

In spite of the sound bite and Twitter message, the long-form non-fiction article is thriving in The New Yorker, The Atlantic, Harper’s, The New York Review of Books, American Prospect, and other print and online formats. For each session, two timely articles are selected for the class to read in advance, and lively discussions are then led by volunteer class members.

This class is for SPARK members who would like to hear from other members, ask questions about a variety of topics, share personal experiences and respectfully consider different points of view.

Since the class is dependent on discussions led by those who enroll, the first session will include a discussion of a preassigned article and pointers for volunteers who will lead the discussions of articles chosen for the next three weeks. Copies of selected articles (all available on the internet) will be at the SPARK offices before and during the class sessions.

Class Fee: $30

Class Coordinators: Barbara Dooley, Judy Kirk, Linda Landes, Susan Sarachek.

Game “Play” Days
Wednesdays, February 13 – February 20 (2 weeks)
1:30 – 3:30
FREE – no Charge

Do you have a shelf or cupboard or box of board and card games that your children and grandchildren will no longer play with you? Do you remember long winter afternoons of Monopoly, Canasta, Dominoes, Gin Rummy or Clue with a fire in the fireplace and cookies and hot chocolate?

Well, we can’t have the fireplace, but we can get together with games we bring and have two wonderful afternoons together. You are encouraged to bring a potential new member with you.

Facilitator: Judy Kirk, an inveterate game player.
Basics of Buddhism
January 17 – February 21 (6 weeks)
Thursdays, 10:00 – Noon

Buddhism is a religious and philosophical tradition that emphasizes experiential methods for cultivating spiritual awareness and the importance of finding truth for oneself. Dating back some 2,500 years to the historical Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama), this tradition treasures loving kindness, compassion, equanimity, clarity of mind, and wisdom. Its hope is to alleviate suffering and create healing and transformation so that all beings may experience the highest peace.

This course will begin with meditation instruction and will cover foundational teachings such as the Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, the Three Jewels, the Three Schools of Buddhism, the Four Boundless Attitudes, Wisdom and Compassion, Death and Rebirth, and Dependent Origination. The class will be interactive, following a conversational approach where questions and dialogue are highly encouraged.

Class Fee: $30

Sergio Moreno is a hospice chaplain in Kansas City, Missouri. He’s also a meditation instructor at the Rime Buddhist Center, where he facilitates the Basics of Buddhism class. Sergio has studied with Tibetan and Western lamas from all different schools of Tibetan Buddhism and is authorized by his teacher, H.E. Tulku Yeshi Rinpoche, to give basic Buddhist teachings. He earned a Master's Degree in Romance Languages and Spanish Literature, a BA in Theology and Ministry and is active in interfaith collaboration.
Nelson-Atkins Museum Art Tours
January 17 – February 21 (6 weeks)
Thursdays, 11:15 – 12:30

Week 1: 1/17  Do the Twist
Compare and contrast the stiff poses of Egyptian art to the later more natural forms of Greece and Rome.

Week 2: 1/24  Dressed to the Nines
Discover the high degree of artistry and craftsmanship used to create some clothing and perhaps some gear of the American Indian Nations.

Week 3: 1/31  Structured Visions: Photographs of Ralston Crawford
Crawford used the camera as a tool of both documentary and artistic expression. His subjects ranged from bullfighting, ships, jazz and religious processions in Spain to the power of the atomic bomb.

Week 4: 2/7  Tales from the Crypt
This tour takes us to Egypt. Learn how and why they buried their royals in style.

Week 5: 2/14  Westward Ho!
Landscapes as well as progress. Wagon trains became obsolete as trains carried people and goods to the west. More people traveled and ventured west.

Week 6: 2/21  Gates of Paradise
Gilded bronze doors for the Baptistry in Florence. Each panel displays a scene from the Old Testament and is said to be the greatest work of early Renaissance sculptor Ghiberti.

Class Fee: $30

Class Facilitator: Jane Harrell, 816-523-2620
Class Location: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
Lunch after the tour in the Rozzelle Court (Optional)

Parking at the museum is $10.00, but free to the members of Nelson-Atkins Art Museum. There is free parking in a small lot on the corner of 45th & Rockhill Road. The lot is entered from 45th Street. Enter the Museum through the glass doors on the north side of the Bloch Building.
Immigrant or refugee? Does it matter what we call them? The terms are often used interchangeably, but there is a crucial legal difference between the two. The presenters in this series will attempt to answer these and other questions regarding this complicated and timely issue, including, but not limited to, the following:

- How long does it take to immigrate to the US?
- Once in the US, is the path to citizenship the same for both groups?
- What does the test for citizenship consist of? Could you pass it?
- How much does it cost to become a citizen?
- What is a “green card” and how long is it good for?
- What is DACA? What is ICE?
- How many immigrants/refugees enter the US legally as opposed to illegally?
- How many immigrants (legal or illegal) pay taxes?
- What is our current immigration policy?
- What part can we play in helping these groups settle in our community?

Class Fee: $30

**Week 1: 1/17** – Our first session will be led by **Tara Burkhart**, Assistant Executive Director of Jewish Vocational Services (or JVS). JVS is one of three agencies in Kansas City (others being Della Lamb and Catholic Charities) to receive and help settle refugees and families. The mission of JVS is to engage, encourage and empower people to achieve social, cultural and economic integration into the community where they settle. In Refugee 101 you will learn all about the global refugee crisis, the U.S. Refugee Admissions program, and the work of resettlement agencies. JVS staff will share personal stories from people who came to Kansas City as refugees, their successes and how our city has welcomed them.
Week 2: 1/24 – Julie Robinson is the Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment (RISE) Outreach Manager for The Kansas City Missouri Public Library. She created the position in 2014 drawing on her 11 years of experience with immigrant communities. She continues to develop the Library’s services including citizenship and English language learning classes and hosting naturalization ceremonies at the Library. She will outline the costs and requirements that immigrants must meet for citizenship, including the test. She will administer the test to the class and lead a discussion afterwards. (Note: When the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation put questions from the U.S. Citizenship Test to American citizens, only one in three could pass it!)

Week 3: 1/31 – Rachel Pollock is the Director of Refugee and Immigration Programs at Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. She will discuss the unique services that Catholic Charities has for immigrants and refugees including New Roots for Refugees (a nine-acre training farm ideal for refugees who often come to this country with farming skills), and La Luz Immigration Clinic among others.

Week 4: 2/7 – Jessica Piedra has more than 15 years of experience in assisting immigrants in their legal journey. Her advocacy on behalf of immigrant youth has been recognized with the Mexican Consulate’s Ohtli Award, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Humanitarian of the Year, and Missouri Lawyers Weekly’s Up and Coming Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. She speaks fluent Spanish and has been through the immigration process with her own family. She will give an overview of the US immigration system including the latest information on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, interior enforcement, and the Muslim ban.

Week 5: 2/14 – David Douglas is the District Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Kansas City, Missouri Field Office. This division of the Department of Homeland Security oversees lawful immigration to this country while protecting Americans and securing our homeland. Mr. Douglas will provide an insider’s view of the agency, its duties and the challenges it faces.

Week 6: 2/21 – Movie: I am Rebecca
The story of a remarkable woman who escaped persecution and probable death for standing up to power in Sudan 17 years ago. She is now a wife and mother and registered nurse living in Kansas City. The film is a subtle and deeply emotional examination of identity, displacement and her journey to achieve the “American dream”.

21c Museum is a multi-venue museum located in hotels in eight US cities. It is one of the largest contemporary art museums in the U.S. and North America’s only collecting museum dedicated solely to emerging artists of the 21st century. Each property features exhibition space open to the public, combined with a boutique hotel and chef-driven restaurant. In Kansas City this property is now in what was the venerable Savoy Hotel. Come and see the Sky Blue Penguins scattered throughout 21c Museum Kansas City, bringing both the natural world and the realm of the imagination into the 170-year-old Savoy. There are 3 site-specific, permanent art installations in the hotel, one of which is the dazzling chandelier Introduced at the 2013 Singapore Biennial.

The other art exhibit throughout the hotel is entitled Refuge: Needing, Seeking, Creating Shelter. As civil strife, economic insecurity, and environmental crises proliferate, emerging artists from across the globe explore how, why, and where people need, seek, and create shelter. The black steel gates of “Homeland Security” by Peruvian artist Jota Castro, and Kansas City’s Nick Cave’s “Untitled” from his “Made by Whites for Whites” series are two examples of the art that will be displayed here until spring. You will no doubt feel the anguish of these artists as you move through this exhibit.

Our tour guide will be Jori Cheville, the current Museum Manager at 21c Museum Kansas City. Jori moved to Kansas City to attend the Kansas City Art Institute and graduated with a BFA with emphasis in ceramics. She received her MFA, emphasis painting, from the University of Kansas in 2013. From 2015-2018, she served as the Gallery Director at Weinberger Fine Art in the Crossroads Art District.

Date: Friday, January 18, 11:00 – Noon
Place: 219 West 9th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105
Tour Cost: $10.00
Tour Size: 15
Parking: Metered street parking, car-pooling recommended.

- This tour would be a perfect adjunct to those taking the series on Immigrants and Refugees on Thursday afternoons.
- The hotel should be serving lunch by the time of this tour.
Tour of Marr Sound Archives and LaBudde Special Collections
Friday, February 22
10:00 – 11:30

Are you ready to rock and roll? Perhaps sing the blues? Mellow out with Mozart? Jive to jazz? Then you need to take the tour of the Marr Sound Archives which is located on the ground floor of the Miller Nichols Library on the campus of UMKC which has archives of every music genre imaginable. The Archives serves students and faculty as well as local community members and researchers around the globe. The 2010 construction of the Robot, an automated storage and retrieval system (amazing to see), has allowed the archives’ collections to continually grow.

Today the collection includes over 380,000 items, with a focus on the American experience as reflected in recorded sound. In addition, the collection contains historic speeches, interviews and vintage radio programs. Over the years, Marr Sound Archives has contributed to a number of projects including Robert Altman’s film Kansas City and Merchant-Ivory’s film Mr. and Mrs. Bridge.

The LaBudde Special Collections is a print archive and research center on the third floor of the Miller Nichols Library. Collections include manuscript material with a strong emphasis in music, especially Kansas City Jazz, women’s and gender studies, popular culture, and Kansas City history.

Our tour guides will be Chuck Haddix, curator of the Marr Sound Archives and host of the “Fish Fry” on KCUR and Stuart Hinds, Assistant Dean for Special Collection and Archives and University Archivist.

Date: Friday, February 22, 10:00 – 11:30
Place: Miller Nichols Library, 800 East 51st Street on the UMKC campus
Tour Cost: $10.00
Tour Size: 15
Parking: Street parking or in the north parking lot with parking tag.
“LET’S EAT OUT”

This lively group meets for lunch at a different restaurant every Friday. Those attending select various restaurants to try.

Whether you are new to SPARK or a longtime member, this is a fun way to meet others and try out new and interesting restaurants.

You need to be a SPARK member to attend “Let’s Eat Out” regularly. However, you are welcome to invite a non-member to join us for a visit.

Join us Friday, January 18 at 11:30 at the Grand Street Café on the Plaza. Watch your email for the list of restaurants we will be visiting throughout the year.

Our facilitator is Lynn Lieberman 816-223-1658 or lynnleee2001@yahoo.com Please contact her to make a reservation by each Wednesday

The Membership Committee invites you to join us the second week of classes for “Coffee and Conversation.”

Plan to come to the class you are enrolled in about 30 minutes early that day to socialize, visit with the instructor and welcome our new members.

FRANCES McLAREN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SPARK has assistance available to SPARK members needing some extra help with class fees. The Frances McLaren Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Frances by her family and through donations to the fund. If you would like more information or to request assistance, please contact:

Jan Parks at parksj3271@gmail.com or 816-523-1723

All requests are confidential.
MARGARET STURGES’ BOOK CLUB
The Margaret Sturges’ Book Club meets on the third Monday of each month at 1:00 at Grand Street Café on the Plaza.

Our facilitator is Nancy Jonas Wilson, 913-782-1980, or njonaswilson@att.net

1/21 Lila Marilynne Robinson
2/18 The Swerve: How the World Became Modern Steven Greenblatt
3/18 Same Kind of Different As Me Ron Hall & Denver Moore
4/15 Rules of Civility Amor Towles

THURSDAY BOOK CLUB
This group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12 noon at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut, Kansas City, MO.

Our facilitator is Sue Habiger, 816-942-3431, or shabiger22@gmail.com

1/24 A Gentleman in Moscow Amor Towles
2/28 The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald
3/28 Behind the Scenes at the Museum Kate Atkinson
4/25 Being Mortal Atul Gawande
MEMBERSHIP and CLASS FEES

Annual Membership ..............................$40 (new or renew in January)
                                      $20 (new after May 1)
(4-6 weeks)..$30
(3 weeks)....$25
(2 weeks)....$20
Humanities Classes  

Tours.....................................................$10 – $20
Parking Tag.............................................$3 (per tag/per day)

Please make your check payable to SPARK
You must be a member to enroll in classes and activities.
All classes are held at the SPARK Office unless otherwise noted.

Please help SPARK by registering and mailing in your completed enrollment form and payment to be received by January 10. You may register at the Chili Luncheon on January 3 (snow date January 10) or you may print an enrollment form from the SPARK website and complete it or complete the printed one within this schedule and mail it to:

UMKC SPARK, 4825 Troost, Room 214D, Kansas City, MO 64110
Phone: 816-235-2870   E-mail: uprightj@umkc.edu
Visit our website: spark.umkc.edu

Pre-registration is required for all SPARK classes BEFORE the first day of classes.

♦ If you are sending in your registration by mail, please be aware it may take 5 or more days to reach the SPARK office through the UMKC postal system.
♦ During the first week of class we will no longer be able to register people or sell parking tags before classes begin. However, you may complete your registration and purchase parking tags after class.
♦ You may pre-order your parking tags by email or at the Chili Luncheon. (Refer to the facing page for more information on parking and purchasing parking tags).
♦ Some classes will have a minimum or maximum enrollment.
♦ Classes will be closed when the maximum enrollment is reached.
♦ Classes with low enrollment will be cancelled.
♦ Refunds or credit will be issued for cancelled classes.

Pre-register early to save your place in each class.
INFORMATION about PARKING for SPARK CLASSES

The SPARK Office and classrooms are located at 4825 Troost, Room 214D, on the UMKC Campus. There is a UMKC parking lot directly south of the SPARK Office which requires a Parking Tag or Pay and Display receipt. If you plan to use parking tags, we highly recommend that you purchase them when you register for classes. There are two options for parking on the UMKC campus:

1) You can purchase **UMKC Parking Tags**. With the tag you may park in any lot on the UMKC campus. **Tags are $3.00 each and good for only ONE day. Be sure to scratch off the correct date and hang the tag on your rear-view mirror facing out or you will be ticketed.**

   You may purchase parking tags at the Chili Luncheon on January 3 or from the SPARK Office. They can be ordered on the class enrollment form when you register for classes. If ordered by Thursday, January 10 the first tag will be mailed to you before classes begin. The rest of your tags will be clearly identified and left on the table in the office on the first day of class. Please submit your payment with your class enrollment fees or pay after the first class.

2) Another option is to purchase a **Pay and Display** receipt from the machine next to the main (south) entrance into the building. This allows you to park for your desired amount of time. Display the receipt on your dashboard. **Cost is $1.25 per hour. Change up to $20 (in quarters) is available from the machine.**

   Please Note: The UMKC parking lots are monitored frequently. You will get a parking violation ticket of $30 if you do not have a correctly marked Parking Tag or Pay and Display receipt visible. If you receive a parking violation for an incorrectly marked Parking Tag, save your Parking Tag and ticket and present them to the SPARK Office.

CLASS ACCESSIBILITY

Disabled parking is available in the SPARK parking lot. You will need to display a State Disabled Parking Permit as well as a UMKC Parking Tag. (You do not need a UMKC Disabled Parking Permit.)

- **Elevator:** The SPARK office is on the 2nd floor. You may access the 2nd floor via the elevator located in the northeast corner of the building. Be aware that it is quite a long walk from the front entrance.
- There is also parking near the elevator on the northeast side of the building. You do not need a disabled parking permit, but you will still need a UMKC Parking Tag. You will need to climb about four stairs to enter a door which is near the elevator.
## LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gil Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Linda Landes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Bill Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baila Goldstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joni Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Harrell **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George Heiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Hirsch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judy Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virginia Lambright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan Parks **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barb Stillman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jay Upright **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Wade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diane Fillion – UMKC Ex-Officio Director</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Committees / Publications

~~ Committees ~~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Judy Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Baila Goldstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Jan Parks **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Linda Wade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~~ Publications ~~

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Catalog</td>
<td>Patty Fuller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Events Calendar &amp; Weekly Update Emails</td>
<td>Jan Parks ** Jodi Upright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Past President

---

**SPARK IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION...**

Our continued success and growth is due to the contributions and leadership of our members. We invite you to join our team. Here are some ways to volunteer:

- Help the Events Committee plan our social activities.
- Join the Membership Committee to welcome new members and improve membership experiences.
- Offer to be a Class, Gem or Tour Coordinator.
- Volunteer to teach a class or give a Gem presentation.
- Assist in copying handouts for instructors.
- Help the Curriculum Committee identify new class topics, instructors, tour ideas, and Gem presenters.
- Offer to help with events, e.g. pre-event set-up, greet and register guests, help serve, clean-up, etc.
- Help organize instructor recognition activities and gift bags.
- Help the Marketing Committee raise awareness of SPARK in the community to recruit new members.
- Share information about SPARK with your friends and invite them to an event or class for a visit.
- Share your ideas or suggestions with a Board member or Committee chair on how we can improve SPARK.

Email or call the SPARK Office to volunteer and we will contact you.
HOW TO CONTACT SPARK
If you have questions or need help completing the registration form, please contact the Office Coordinator at the SPARK office.
Phone: 816-235-2870        Email: uprightj@umkc.edu
UMKC SPARK, 4825 Troost, Room 214D, Kansas City, MO 64110
Visit our Website: spark.umkc.edu or
Web search: UMKC SPARK

Winter 2019
Chili Luncheon: Central United Methodist Church
5144 Oak Street, KCMO
Annual Meeting – Election of Board of Directors
Thursday, January 3, 2019 (RSVP by December 26, 2018)
(Snow Date – January 10)
11:30 – 2:30
Register for classes by January 10
Classes: January 14 – February 22

Spring 2019
Spring Fling – Dessert Bar
Thursday, March 7 (RSVP by February 28)
Register for classes by March 14
Classes: March 25 – May 3

Summer 2019
May Luncheon
Thursday, May 16 (RSVP by May 9)
Register for classes by May 23
Classes: June 3 – 28

Fall 2019
Fall Barbeque
Thursday, September 5 (RSVP by August 29)
Register for classes by September 12
Classes: September 23 – October 31

Board Meetings 2019
The Board usually meets the third Friday of even-numbered months
at 9:30 in the SPARK Office.
February 15, April 19, June 21, August 16, October 18, December ???,
Members are always welcome to attend Board and Committee Meetings.
Thursday, January 3, 2019 (Snow date Jan 10)
11:30 - 2:30
Central United Methodist Church
5144 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO

Enjoy our Chili Lunch with sides
Cost: $15 - Bring a guest for $10
(Vegetarian options will be available)

PLEASE REGISTER BY DECEMBER 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Chili Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Class Preview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learn about &amp; Register for Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Purchase Parking Tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduce a Friend to SPARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Win a Door Prize!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-register by emailing SPARK at uprightj@umkc.edu or calling J. Upright at 816-500-0744

- Registration deadline is December 26
- You may pay at the Chili Lunch
- You may send your check to SPARK at 4825 Troost, Room 214D, KC, MO 64110

If you cancel more than 48 hours before the luncheon, you will not be charged for the cost of lunch.