

SPACES OF BLUE: MOMENTS OF HUMANITY DURING A TURBULENT CENTURY

Wednesdays, January 11 to March 15, 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

Fairfield Seniors' Centre, 81 Lothian Avenue, Etobicoke

www.learningunlimited.com

Coordinator and Presenter: Robert Douglas is a former teacher and author, currently a reviewer for *Critics at Large* and teacher for Ryerson's Later Life Learning program.

Course Overview: This course will focus on those moments of humanity in the 20th century when empathy, strength of character, courage and generosity appeared amid the darkness of repression, injustice and horror.

- January 11.** **Thematic overview**, exploring how Philip Hallie's *Spaces of Blue* intersects with Lincoln's "the better angels of our nature". Illustrated by Franklin Roosevelt and protagonists in contemporary film.
- January 18.** **Courageous responses to the evils of Nazism** will examine the activities and motives of individuals and communities, who, at great risk to themselves, rescued people who would have otherwise perished.
- January 25.** **The nourishing of the human spirit in the Stalinist era** through the artistic expression of Anna Akhmatova, Dmitri Shostakovich, Boris Pasternak and others.
- February 1.** **Challenges to political orthodoxy** in postwar America, the post-Stalinist Soviet Union, and Communist Czechoslovakia: Robert Oppenheimer, Andrei Sakharov and Vaclav Havel.
- February 8.** **Courageous responses to McCarthyism** exemplified by Edward R. Murrow, Pete Seeger and Paul Robeson
- February 15.** **The struggle for civil rights in America** as exemplified by the well-known - Martin Luther King and Jackie Robinson - and less familiar individuals.
- February 22.** **Moments of de-escalating international tensions from the Cold War to the present** that include the Iranian hostage-taking crisis, the assistance to Vietnamese refugees, and a whistle blower during the Second Iraq war.
- March 1.** **The struggle for women to achieve equal rights** in Canada, America and globally, including Americans from Anita Hill to Michelle Obama who challenged sexual harassment.
- March 8.** **The power of healing through the arts**, acceptance and reconciliation for indigenous peoples and those caught up in the savagery of war.
- March 15** **The Politics of Hope** in the age of Barack Obama and Justin Trudeau

Researcher/Committee Contact and Chair: Pamela Guy