



THE HOUSTON SEMINAR

The Houston Seminar was founded in 1977 for the purpose of stimulating learning and cultural awareness. Each spring and fall the nonprofit group offers lectures and study tours focused on varied topics that may include art, architecture, literature, music, theater, history, politics, philosophy, psychology, religion, the natural environment, and current trends and events.

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A Note To Our Patrons

We are excited to be bringing back study tours this spring, while also offering a combination of Zoom and in-person courses in Houston. We continue to navigate the changing circumstances of COVID-19 with the health and safety of our speakers and audience in mind; please check our website for updated guidelines. Most Zoom courses will be recorded, and you will be able to register for and view them on our website for the duration of the semester. Please note that by registering for Zoom courses, you are understood to be giving your permission to be recorded.

Spring 2022

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Crisis





The Alamo

©Dror Baldinger Courtesy: Ruby City

Right Top

Howard Cook, San Antonio's Importance in Texas History, 1937-1939, fresco. US Post Office and Federal Courthouse 615 E Houston St.

Right Bottom

Wangechi Mutu, The Second Dreamer, 2017 @Mark Meniiyar Courtesy: Ruby City

San Antonio: Dreams of the Future, **History of the Past**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

By far the oldest major city in Texas, San Antonio is steeped in history. Our storied neighbor to the west, which celebrated its tricentennial in 2018, is the second-largest city in Texas and the most visited city in the state.

And yet, how well do we know San Antonio?

A few data points reliably come to mind: the Riverwalk, the Missions, and the Alamo. But today a new wave of visionaries is shaping San Antonio's future, while rethinking notions of the past. From forwardthinking urban planning, including an ambitious expansion of the Riverwalk, to a thriving art scene that is home to perhaps the most interesting community of working artists in the state, there is much more to San Antonio in 2022 than lives in the popular imagination.

From our lodgings at the new Canopy Hotel, located on the Riverwalk, we will explore the art, architecture, history, and gardens of San Antonio. **Stephen Fox**, the renowned architectural historian, will join local experts who will accompany us on our tour of this fascinating city. We will visit the sprawling complex of shops and restaurants at the historic Pearl Brewery, as well as art museums, including the recently opened Ruby City designed by David Adjaye, the McNay Art Museum, and the San Antonio Museum of Art. We will visit historic neighborhoods including Monte Vista, King William, and the Westside. We will also follow the Mission Trail, take a peek at the Alamo, and enjoy a chartered cruise on the San Antonio River.











Art, Architecture, and the Fortune 500: A Study Tour to **Northwest Arkansas**

FRIDAY, APRIL 22-SUNDAY, APRIL 24

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Houston Seminar's brief 2013 study tour to the newly opened Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas left visitors yearning for more. This spring we will again be welcomed at Crystal Bridges and tour its expanded collection, special exhibitions, and its satellite performing and visual arts space, the Momentary. We will tour Fay Jones's moving Mildred Cooper Chapel and venture farther afield to Jones's palatial commission for Governor Orval Faubus as well as Fay and Gus Jones's home in Fayetteville. We will have a rare opportunity to visit the interior of Marlon Blackwell's St. Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in nearby Springdale.

The study tour is an exploration of an under-rated and under-valued region of America: northwest Arkansas. Ringed by the Ouachita and Ozark Mountains, this area was bandied back and forth during the Civil War. Culturally and geographically more aligned with Missouri than with the South, its earliest residents were Osage and later Cherokee. These native groups were succeeded by settlers of European extraction moving in from Kentucky and Tennessee seeking land. By the mid-twentieth century, northwest Arkansas was home to three Fortune 500 companies: J. B. Hunt, Tyson Foods, and Walmart. With the aid of local experts and Houston's own Stephen Fox, we will explore this region and see first-hand the enormous investment made by community leaders in creating a model for living.

No trip to northwest Arkansas would be complete without experiencing the vibrant 21c Museum Hotel, our chic home for two nights in Bentonville.



Courtesy: Crystal Bridges

Middle

©Ironside Photography/ Stephen Ironside Courtesy: Crystal Bridges

Bottom

Mildred Cooper Chapel





Hidden Houston: South Main Street

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. 11530 S. Main Street, 77025, and 11620 S. Main Street, 77025. On-site parking available. Limited enrollment. Subscribers should be prepared to walk; closed-toe shoes are required. Lunch is included.



Have you ever wondered what's inside these two buildings on South Main Street? For over 80 years **Brochsteins** has manufactured custom architectural millwork and furniture for a wide array of commercial clients in this 1930s-era facility comprising 130,000 square feet. Hear about the history of this familyowned business from Deborah Brochstein, thirdgeneration CEO and owner of Brochsteins, and tour the manufacturing floor to understand the marriage of old-world craftsmanship and modern technology. The Rice University Library Service Center, housed in the green warehouse nearby, opened in 2004 to provide the library with off-site storage for lowuse and rare materials. The center holds over one million items in a very large vault maintained at a temperature of 50 degrees and 30 percent relative humidity, which extends the life of print materials by about 275 years. James Springer, Manager of the Library Service Center, will tell us about the center's holdings and guide us on a tour of the facility.









Jane Austen: Regency and Revolution

TWO TUESDAYS, FEBRUARY 22 AND MARCH 1, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Limited enrollment. Location on Rice University campus will be provided to subscribers.

Jane Austen inhabits two worlds. In the first—which spans the late eighteenth century and the Regency—she wrote six novels and an intriguing collection of letters and juvenilia. We know something about her family but little about what she thought or felt. In the second—the world of the last 40 years—her name has been associated with an ever-expanding body of filmic adaptations of her novels, biopics, internet blogs and memes, touristic itineraries, and even merchandise from nightgowns to perfume. Our century has claimed Jane Austen as its own.

The two worlds seem quite different, especially if we attend—as we often do—to matters of dress, architecture, and manners. "Jane Austen" is exotic, her characters costumed and often deliciously mysterious. In some ways, though, Austen's two worlds are one. Writing on the cusp of something we might recognize as modernity, Austen was shaped by and gave shape to modern expectations of gender, profession, marriage, humor, and literary style. The marriage plots at the center of her novels reflect the then-revolutionary ideal of conjugal or affective marriage, with its emphasis on feeling and intimacy. Her novels are both curious and deeply familiar.

In this two-session course, **Helena Michie** will focus on Austen's most beloved novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, and on several of its visual adaptations as a test case for Austen's portability. Participants are encouraged to have recently read the novel before the first class and to have watched a film adaptation before the second. Professor Michie will provide film titles and access prior to the course.

Helena Michie is a professor of English at Rice University and is the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor in Humanities. She teaches courses in feminist theory, literary theory, and Victorian literature and culture. She is also the director of Rice University's Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality and the author of five books in Victorian Studies and the study of gender and sexuality.

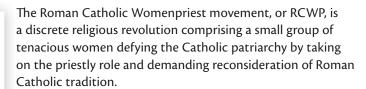






Women on the Verge: The Roman Catholic Womenpriest Movement

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 6:00-7:30 P.M. Zoom information will be emailed to subscribers.



What does it mean to be a Roman Catholic Womanpriest? Whom do they serve and how do they fit—or not—in the Catholic church today? Join Jill Peterfeso, author of Womanpriest: Tradition and Transgression in the Contemporary

Roman Catholic Church, an ethnography of the RCWP movement, for an exploration of the ongoing tensions in Roman Catholicism around gender and sexuality, priestly authority, and religious change.

Jill Peterfeso is the Eli Franklin Craven and Minnie Phipps Craven Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Guilford College. She is a cultural historian of American religion who uses ethnography to explore questions of gender, authority, and creativity in Roman Catholicism and Mormonism.



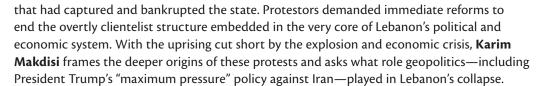
Jesus' Priests

Behind the Headlines: A Deeper Look

THREE THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 3 AND 10, 11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Zoom invitations will be emailed to subscribers. Please note that these talks will NOT be recorded or available for viewing after the event.



FEBRUARY 24: LEBANON'S INEVITABLE COLLAPSE: SECTARIANISM. **KLEPTOCRACY, OR GEOPOLITICS?** The explosion in Beirut's port in August 2020 constituted the largest non-nuclear explosion since World War II. It hastened a collapse in Lebanon so deep that the World Bank described it as one of the top three "most severe crises globally since the mid-19th century." Just two years earlier, Lebanon's political future looked quite different. After fifteen years of civil war (1975–90) and three decades of postwar neoliberal policies, Lebanese men and women had risen up against a kleptocratic ruling class



Karim Makdisi is an associate professor of international relations and director of the Program in Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. His recent publications include the edited volumes The Land of the Blue Helmets: United Nations in the Arab World (University of California Press, 2017, with Vijay Prashad); Between Regional Autonomy and Intervention: New Conflict Dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa (eds. Boserup et al., Danish Institute for International Studies, 2017); and Interventions in Conflict: International Peacemaking in the Middle East (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, with R. Khouri and M. Wählisch).

MARCH 3: SERIAL WAR IN AFGHANISTAN: BEYOND 9/11, THE TALIBAN, AND THE BLUE BURQAS

While Afghanistan has recently returned to mainstream U.S. media after years of explicit neglect, coverage continues to focus primarily on the last 20 years. U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan, however, goes back some 43 years to the late Cold War era, to shortly after the Soviet invasion. Drawing on nearly three decades of research in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Anila Daulatzai will trace this longer history of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan, with special attention to the emergence of movements like the Taliban, to the effects on non-elite Afghans of both the extended U.S. presence and the recent U.S. withdrawal, and to terms like occupation, terrorism, liberation, women's rights, and humanitarianism in the context of U.S.-Afghan relations.

Anila Daulatzai is a socio-cultural anthropologist and the Chancellor's Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught in prisons and universities across three continents and has been conducting research in Afghanistan as well as with Afghan refugees in Pakistan since 1995. Between 2006 and 2013, Dr. Daulatzai carried out ethnographic fieldwork in Kabul and taught at Kabul University and at the American University of Afghanistan. Her past and current research projects look at widowhood, heroin use, and polio through the lens of serial war. Her writings have appeared in various academic journals as well as Al-Jazeera English and Jadaliyya. She is currently completing her book manuscript provisionally titled "War and What Remains: Everyday Life in Contemporary Kabul, Afghanistan."

MARCH 10: U.S.-RUSSIA CONFLICT: WHAT IS TO BE DONE? Many Americans see Russia today as a threat, not only to friends and allies in Eurasia but also to the very fabric of American democracy. For their part, Russians see an America that routinely uses force without United Nations approval, that leverages its privileged place in the global economy through sanctions and trade wars, and that walks away from bedrock international treaties. Each side doubles down on pressure, punishment, and provocation, with no evidence that these tactics are succeeding. Presidents Trump and Putin both said they wanted better relations, yet the last four years brought even further deterioration. Since President Biden took office, he has called for de-escalation and a return to stable, predictable relations, but the damage may be hard to reverse. While there is no "easy button" for U.S.-Russia relations, there is some low-hanging fruit. With more clarity about what Americans stand for and seek to achieve, renewed investment in dialogue and exchange at all levels, and a dose of real diplomacy, we can begin to pull back from this dangerous zero-sum game.







Matthew Rojansky is director of the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., and one of the country's leading experts on states of the former Soviet Union. He regularly advises governments and international organizations on high-level bipartisan initiatives aimed at reducing tensions with Russia and strengthening the U.S. commitment to nuclear arms control and nonproliferation. His writing has appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Foreign Policy. An adjunct professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Mr. Rojansky also serves as U.S. Executive Secretary for the Dartmouth Conference, a track-two U.S.-Russian conflict resolution initiative begun in 1960. He holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.



A Cultural Immersion at Raindrop Turkish House

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2:30–4:00 P.M. Raindrop Turkish House. Limited enrollment. Directions will be provided to subscribers.

Turkey is a land rich in history, culture, and culinary tradition. Join us at Raindrop Turkish House to feast on a Turkish meal, enjoy a presentation about tea and coffee, watch a folkloric dance performance, learn about water marbling through a demonstration, and engage in a craft activity to take home. This multisensory cultural outing is sure to satisfy the eager traveler in you without ever having to leave Houston!

Courtesy: Raindrop Turkish House





The Supreme Court: An Update and a Look Forward

MONDAY, MARCH 7, NOON-1:30 P.M.Zoom information will be emailed to subscribers

The three new Supreme Court justices appointed by former President Donald Trump are already shifting the court in new and more conservative directions. Their personalities and styles differ, and they sometimes clash with one another, but their collective influence is already significant and is likely to grow as they gain seniority. In this Zoom session, **Stephen Vladeck** returns to the Houston Seminar to review the court's October 2020 term and its results and to look ahead to trends we may see in the years to come.

Professor Vladeck is a nationally recognized expert on the federal courts and constitutional law. He has argued many cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and the lower federal courts and is recognized for his prolific popular writing, his podcasts and blogs, his legal casebooks on national security, and his appearances as CNN's Supreme Court analyst. He currently holds



the Charles Alan Wright Chair in Federal Courts at the University of Texas School of Law and is a Distinguished Scholar at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law. Professor Vladeck earned his B.A. summa cum laude from Amherst College and his J.D. from Yale University Law School.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, NOON-1:30 P.M. United Way of Greater Houston, 50 Waugh Drive, 77007. Limited enrollment. Free parking in adjacent garage. Registrants are invited to reserve a box lunch (\$15) or bring a lunch.

COVID-19 brought rapid and profoundly disruptive changes to Houston-area public schools. Remote learning, varying access to technology, and threats to students' mental, physical, and economic welfare clearly revealed existing inequities. Now, aided by federal CARES Act funds, area schools are working to help students move forward.

In this lunchtime program, two innovative and respected educational leaders will discuss what they have learned over the past two years, whether the pandemic's demands led to any useful innovations or insights, and how they developed their current strategies to help students succeed.

HISD's deputy superintendent **Rick Cruz** joined the district in 2008 as a Teach For America corps member and bilingual fifth-grade teacher at Moreno Elementary School, where he was twice named Teacher of the Year. In 2010 he founded EMERGE, a program that helps first-generation and low-income students attend and graduate from the nation's top colleges and universities. Since 2013 Cruz has been a member of HISD's central leadership team, where he has implemented initiatives focused on ensuring that all graduating seniors are college- and career-ready.

Mark DiBella is Chief Executive Officer of YES Prep Public Schools, a high-performing charter system serving more than 17,000 students from underserved communities on more than 20 campuses. He began his career in education as a 1999 Teach For America corps member, teaching fifth grade at HISD's Garcia Elementary. After joining YES Prep in 2001 as a teacher, DiBella held various leadership roles within the YES Prep system and was instrumental in executing the system's growth strategy, significantly expanding the number of students served, before becoming CEO in 2016.



Leading Lights in the New Poetic Vanguard

TWO WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 27 AND MAY 4, NOON-1:30 P.M.

Limited enrollment. Location will be provided to subscribers.

The rise of contemporary poetry has stretched from the top shelf of the local library all the way to the winning stage of *America's Got Talent*. What makes this new wave of modern poetry so affecting? In this two-session course with **Deborah D.E.E.P Mouton**, Houston's Poet Laureate from 2017 until 2019, we will discover how the bending of form, the shaping of social commentary, and the delight of poetry are leading the genre forward. Ms. Mouton will focus on the poetry of Jericho Brown, winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, Patricia Smith, recipient of the 2021 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, and her own works. Each one of these extraordinary writers is a credit to the art form and "a testament to the power of words to change lives."

Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton is an internationally known poet, educator, activist, and author of *Newsworthy* (Bloomsday Literary, 2019). As the executive director of VIP Arts Houston, she builds bridges that amplify the voices of artists around the nation. Ms. Mouton wrote the libretto for *Marian's Song*, a Houston Grand Opera commission, which premiered in March 2020.





Places of Faith: An Architectural and Cultural Perspective

ONE SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 6:30–8:30 P.M., AND TWO THURSDAYS, MAY 5 AND MAY 12, 11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M. Limited enrollment. Directions will be provided to subscribers.

Houston is a melting pot of cultures, faiths, and traditions. From a flourishing Muslim community to the lesser-known presence of the Quaker tradition, Houston has houses of worship to welcome them all. In this course, we will visit three distinct places of worship, each a reflection of Houston's rich cultural diversity. Join us to learn how the specificity of design aligns with the needs and uses of these special buildings—not only as centers for religious practice but also as places for community gathering.

SATURDAY APRIL 30: LIVE OAK FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE,
1318 WEST 26TH STREET, 77008 Completed in 2001, Live
Oak Friends Meeting House was the idea of Houston gallerist
Hiram Butler, who wanted to establish a new home for Live
Oak Friends Meeting, a Quaker Meeting established in the
early 1950s. The 12-foot-square skyspace in the roof of the main



meeting room was designed by James Turrell, a preeminent artist who pioneered the use of light as medium. On this tour, **Jane E. Houser**, a life-long Quaker, will give an overview of the Quaker faith and tradition and of the construction of the building. At sunset, participants will gather beneath the sky space to experience the transformation of the spare, white meeting room into a luminous chamber that immerses one in the space of the sky. In case of rain, participants will visit a different James Turrell installation.

Light snacks will be available prior to the presentation. Food is not permitted in the meeting room but is allowed outdoors and in other spaces in the building.

THURSDAY, MAY 5: THE ISLAMIC DAWAH CENTER, 201 TRAVIS STREET, 77002 Formerly the Houston National Bank, this prestigious neoclassical building, built in 1928, was converted into a mosque in 1994, when it was purchased by Hakeem Olajuwon, former Houston Rockets player and NBA star. The architectural and design heritage of the building was preserved during the conversion, including the structure's spectacular gold-leaf domed interior and imposing limestone and marble colonnaded exterior. The former bank's basement vault now houses an extensive library of Islamic texts. **Ameer Abuhalimeh**, executive director of the center, will lead us on a

Please wear comfortable shoes and note the use of stairs in some areas. Wheelchair accessible. The center requires that all guests dress appropriately (modest, unrevealing) and that women bring scarves to cover their heads.

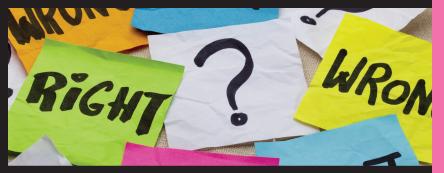
tour of the vault, the prayer hall, and the mosque's museum of Islamic art.

THURSDAY, MAY 12: GOOD HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 3015 N MACGREGOR WAY, 77004 Established in 1872, Good Hope Missionary Baptist is one of Houston's oldest churches. It was originally located in a fragile structure called a "brush arbor" in Freedman's Town, where former slaves congregated to worship in Houston's Fourth Ward. Good Hope's history is intertwined with Houston's political history: the church was active in the fight to desegregate the voting process. It moved into its current location on March 22, 1981, and was granted a Texas Historical Marker from the State of Texas Historical Commission in 2007. The current senior pastor, Dr. D. Z. Cofield, will lead participants on a tour of the modern structure and discuss the church's rich cultural history. Lunch and a musical performance are included on this visit.



Courtesy: Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church





Ethical Choices Relating to War and Crisis

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Limited enrollment. Location will be provided to subscribers.

In our daily lives, we are presented with choices about how to behave in situations where no law compels us to act. And yet, in these moments we often feel we must act. In taking actions, we do so without full information or any guarantee of success. The German theologian and philosopher Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer noted, "Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." Why do we feel compelled to act in these situations, and what drives us? The French philosopher and judge Baron Montesquieu argued that *moeurs* (the customs, manners, and morals of a country) are often more fundamental than laws and that laws should reflect and complement a country's moeurs. This course will discuss the choices individuals must make in relation to two topics that have affected everyone in recent years—the "Ethics of War and the "Ethics of Crisis." It will examine two articles by Justice Gordon Goodman: "The Ethics of War and the Law of the Sea" (Volume 80, Issue 1, 2020, Heidelberg Journal of International Law), and "The Ethics of Crisis" (Issue 28, 2021, Harvard Public Health Review), whose unifying theme is the personal responsibility of every individual to behave ethically. The two articles will be made available to participants prior to the course.

Gordon Goodman was elected to the First Court of Appeals in 2018 and is a member of the Texas State Bar, Pennsylvania Bar, and Energy Bar Associations. Before serving on the bench, he held senior positions for the E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.; Conoco, Inc.; and Occidental Petroleum Corporation. He earned his B.A. degree magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He has served on the board of directors for the Houston Area Urban League and on advisory boards for the Blaffer Gallery (as chairman), the University of Houston's College of Arts & Sciences (as chairman), and the Jesse H. Jones School of Business at Texas Southern University.

Discounts:

Teachers and students with a school I.D. may attend classes for a discounted fee. Please call the registrar for details.

Refunds:

For refund requests that occur at least two weeks before a course begins, a 20% cancellation fee will be charged. If others have been turned away from a limited-enrollment course, no refund will be issued unless your place can be filled. Refund policies for courses involving travel will differ.

Enrollment:

All courses are available on a first-come, firstserved basis. You may enroll by mail, email, phone, or online

Gift certificates:

These are available for a single session, a specific course, or a dollar amount, which the recipient may apply toward any course(s). Please call for more information.

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Course List and Reservation Form

Please send reservation form and payment to

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PLEASE ENROLL ME/US IN THE FOLLOWING COURSES:			
San Antonio: Dreams of the Future, Histor Past Thursday, February 10–Sunday, February 13	y of the	and fur	
Art, Architecture, and the Fortune 500: A Tour to Northwest Arkansas Friday, April 22: April 24	information, please call 713-666-9000 or email registrar@ houstonseminar.org.		
Hidden Houston: South Main Street Thursday, February 3, 10:00 A.M2:00 P.M., \$65		□ IP F	ebruary 3
Jane Austen: Regency and Revolution Two Tuesdays, February 22 and March 1, 6:00–7:30 \$35 per session	P February 22 P March 1		
Women on the Verge: The Roman Catholic Womenpriest Movement Wednesday, Februar 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$25		Z	ebruary 23
		_	ebruary 24:
Behind the Headlines: A Deeper Look Three Thursdays, February 24, March 3 and 10, 11:0 A.M12:30 P.M., \$25 per session	Lebanon Z March 3: Afghanistan March 10: Russia		
A Cultural Immersion at Raindrop Turkish Saturday, March 5, 2:30–4:00 P.M., \$75	House		March 5
The Supreme Court: An Update and a Look Forward Monday, March 7, Noon–1:30 P.M., \$25	March 7		
Lessons, Surprises, and Silver Linings: Hou Public Schools and the Pandemic Wednesday, April 20, Noon–1:30 P.M., \$35, add \$15	P April 20 Add Lunch		
Leading Lights in the New Poetic Vanguar Wednesdays, April 27 and May 4, Noon–1:30 P.M., \$35 per session	d Two	IP April 27 IP May 4	
Places of Faith: An Architectural and Cultura Perspective One Saturday, April 30, 6:30–8:30 P.M. Thursdays, May 5 and 12, 11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M., \$50 per session			April 30: Live Oak Friend: Weeting House Way 5: The Islamic Dawah Center Way 12: Good Hope Wissionary Baptist Church
Ethical Choices Relating to War and Crisis Wednesday, May 11, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$35		IP /	May 11
Ethical Choices Relating to War and Crisis Wednesday, May 11, 6:00–7:30 P.M., \$35	PHONE		
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enrollment information.





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Jane Austen: Regency and Revolution

Hidden Houston: South Main Street

Women on the Verge: The Roman Catholic Womenpriest Movement

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