

## Winter 2022 term Brown Bag descriptions in chronological order

All Brown Bags will be held on Wednesdays, in-person and via Zoom, from Pebble Hill, 101 S. Debardeleben St., between 11:30am – 1:00pm, unless otherwise noted.

### January 19

**David Housel** presents his book *From the Backbooth at Chappy's: Stories of the South: Football, Politics, Religion, and More*

One never knows what the topic of discussion will be when taking a seat with the gentlemen in the Backbooth at Chappy's Deli in Auburn, Alabama. The topics change daily, often several times within the same sitting. The conversation is broad and knows no bounds. Throughout the day, conservative, liberal, and even some middle-of-the-road friends gather for breakfast to chat about the news of the day. Usually, the conversation is cordial and without rancor ... but not always. This book is a collection of the group's thoughts, recollections, hopes, and dreams. In addition to football, politics and religion, there are stories of friends and neighbors, and of people the gentlemen know only through the news media—mostly imperfect people in an imperfect world doing the best they can. Filled with Southern charm and keen insights, you'll finish this book convinced that the world would be better if we as a nation had more conversations like the men at Chappy's.

**David E. Housel** has been the Director of Athletics Emeritus at Auburn University since January 2006. He is a former Director of Athletics for the Auburn Tigers Athletics Department. He was named Auburn's 13th Director of Athletics on April 1, 1994, after working in almost every area of the Auburn Athletic Department for the previous 25 years. He has dedicated more than 40 years to Auburn University, and was the athletic department's sports information director from 1981-94.

### January 26

**Michael Nishcan** presents *Wholesome Wave* (via Zoom)

Founded in 2007, Wholesome Wave has partnered with Community-Based Organizations, in the places they call home, by bringing powerful concepts and seed funding to co-design program approaches that work best for their community. Program concepts are designed to raise and re-invest private funding to demonstrate what might happen if public funding was used more effectively.

**Chef Michel Nischan**, the late Gus Schumacher, and the late Michael Batterberry, founded Wholesome Wave as a way to address diet-related diseases by helping low-income Americans buy and eat healthy fruits and vegetables.

## February 2

Sarah Barrett Gill from Mama Mocha's presents ***Coffee Around the World***

In her Brown Bag presentation, Sarah will guide us through buying coffee on the international market, roasting coffee using a drum roaster, and how she chooses to roast different beans. She will provide a variety of different kinds of coffee to taste and compare. It will be available at no charge to those attending. The following are source countries that appear in her list of the beans she blends based on availability: Brazil, Colombia, Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Sulawesi, Sumatra, Uganda, and Vietnam.

**Sarah Barnett Gill** has worked in the coffee industry for 17 years. She has experience as a barista, coffee shop manager, barista trainer, coffee roaster, and coffee shop consultant. She has taught courses in roasting coffee for the Specialty Coffee Association of America. Locally, she has taught courses on coffee for many baristas in the Auburn/Opelika area. She has traveled to El Salvador to explore direct trade coffee farms and processing. Presently she owns Mama Mocha's Coffee Roastery in Opelika, Alabama, providing fresh roasted coffee for a plethora of local restaurants and cafes. She also provides free home delivery to individual clients.

## February 9

Mallory McDuff presents her book ***Our Last Best Act*** (via Zoom)

***Our Last Best Act*** equips readers to face end-of-life planning with climate and community in mind. After the sudden deaths of her parents, Mallory McDuff confronted her own mortality in a world threatened by the climate crisis. As a mother and teacher, she began to research sustainable practices around death and dying, determined to honor her parents' commitment to caring for the earth. What started as a personal journey expanded into a yearlong exploration of green burials, aquamation, conservation cemeteries, death doulas, home funerals, and human composting. *Our Last Best Act* explores the choices we make--and how our death can honor our values and create a legacy for the world. This class introduces participants to diverse and sustainable options for the end of our lives.

**Mallory McDuff** grew up in the small town of Fairhope, Alabama where her family practiced environmental stewardship through faith by giving up trash and driving for the forty days of Lent to reduce consumption. She teaches environmental education at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC, where she lives on campus with her two daughters. With her two children, she visited more than 50 congregations across the country taking actions like installing solar panels on sanctuaries, responding to disasters, and divesting from fossil fuels. She is the author of four books and more than 50 essays in places like the New York Times, Washington Post, and Sojourners.

## **February 16**

### **Ashley Lovell** presents *the Alabama Prison Birthing Project*

Alabama Prison Birth Project's mission is to improve the health of newborns birthed by women in custody while strengthening maternal bonds and maternal self-efficacy. All mothers giving birth in custody in Alabama will have healthy births and will not be separated from their newborns, ensuring normal child development and promoting positive maternal change from within.

**Ashley Lovell** is a Lamaze-Certified Childbirth Educator, a DONA-certified birth doula, and a peer breastfeeding counselor. She received her B.S. and M.S. from Clemson University and Auburn University in wildlife sciences, but eventually left her 17-year career in natural resources to focus on professional birth work. As an doula for 8 years, she has supported birthing people in 10 different hospitals and home settings in Alabama and Georgia.

## **February 23**

### **Sonny Dawsey** presents *the Confederados*

After their defeat in the Civil War, many U.S. Southerners were discontent and fearful. A significant number of them decided to emigrate to other countries, and one of the largest groups made its way to Brazil where the government provided support and cheap land. They became known as *The Confederados*. Several colonies were established, and the largest of these was located in Southeast Brazil near the farm of former Alabama state senator from Dallas County, William H. Norris. For many decades the settlement, eventually to be known as Americana, acted as a magnet for North Americans arriving in Brazil. Though they were relatively few in number, these expatriates had a significant impact on Brazilian agriculture, education, and overall society.

**Cyrus (Sonny) Dawsey** is Professor Emeritus of Geosciences at Auburn. Although born in Florida, he grew up in Brazil; and following Bachelor and Master's degrees from Florida State, he earned a PhD from the University of Florida. Before his retirement in 2008, he spent 34 years as a faculty member at Auburn University; almost two decades as a full professor. During this time he was Chair of the Department of Geography, and he established and directed the Institute for Latin American Studies. He taught 12 different courses in Geography and conducted research on spatial analysis, computer cartography, and the history of migration in South America. He authored over 70 professional articles and one book. He participated on various university and college committees and served as President of the AU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. After retirement he has remained active in many community organizations and has taught a wide range of courses for OLLI. Sonny and his wife, Barbara, have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

## **March 2**

### **Vincent Hall** presents ***White Schools, Black Children***

Screen this documentary with the local filmmaker who spent years researching the Rosenwald schools and interviewing former students, teachers, and historians about the impact and legacy of these schools built in Black communities throughout the South in the early 20th century.

As a Community Consultant and President of Living History Initiative, LLC, **Vincent Hall** develops and maintains intergenerational relationships between diverse communities and organizations.

He facilitates community engagement initiatives to establish sustainable communities through shared memories, experiences, relevant information, short films and community gatherings to create ownership and preservation of the community narrative.