



Minderful Center, LLC

Thoughtful Classes for Intelligent People

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For Thoughtful, Active People

An Educational Program for Lifelong Learners

John T. THAXTON

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Ms Janet ARNOLD founded the Arizona Jewish Theatre in 1988. She serves as the company's Producing Director, as well as actor and stage director in selected plays. In its 20+ years of existence, the company has grown to be one of only four professional theatre companies in the Valley and is one of the largest and oldest Jewish theatres in North America. Janet received the YWCA Creative Artist of the Year Award in 2001 and was nominated for the governors Art Award in 2008. www.azjewishtheatre.org

Dr. Michael EPNER is a retired MD, splitting his time between Scottsdale and the East Coast. He has facilitated the "Current News Topics" class for a number of years and built up a loyal following of students who take his course every session due to his success in leading the class. He has a strong interest in the important issues of the day backed up by weekly research.

Betsy GORMAN is a self-described "news junky" and has been an active student in the Minderful Center for over six years in such courses as "Global Issues" and Current News Topics". She is now a member of the Minderful Center Advisory Council as well as an instructor and a continuing lifelong learner. She has a B.A. in Psychology and earned her CEBS designation from the International Institute for Employee Benefits through Wharton in Philadelphia. Currently she is an upholsterer in Scottsdale in between keeping up on all the news.

Mr. Mark GLUCKMAN is a professional photographer who has worked with major corporations and organizations throughout the Valley, as well as doing private social events. His B.A. degree in Theater is from California State University, Northridge, and his M.A. in Mass Communication was earned at ASU. He has taught at ASU, Granite Reef Senior Center, Stamford Adult Education (Conn.), as well as teaching on a two-week cruise ship in the Mediterranean. www.MarkGluckmanPhotography.com

Mr. Joe HEWITT has a degree in Electrical Engineering from Penn State and is a graduate of Rutgers University's Advanced Management program. He possesses nearly 40 years experience designing innovative computer systems in a wide variety of application areas, including telephony, networking, flight simulation, process control, banking, and medical systems. In the corporate setting Joe was an ardent teacher of project/program management and frequently gave courses and seminars on these topics. Although he's "officially" retired, Joe continues to actively consult on website design/implementation and is the System Administrator for several of these and other websites. He is a member of the Phoenix Creative Planning Centers Foundation and actively supports their endeavor to further Storyboarding as a planning methodology. He remains a prolific web surfer and frequently tutors on PC and Internet usage. You will often find him participating as a student in OSHER and other adult/senior education program.

Ms Sheila LANDAU is an interior designer working with clients in the building, remodeling and renovation of their homes in Scottsdale and Paradise Valley. She has extensive experience in home building, space planning, design and renovation. Member of American Society of Interior Designers.

Mr. Jay LEVINSOHN, over a 34-year career with the IRS, held increasingly responsible positions where negotiations skills were essential. He was involved in oil and case litigation cases involving billions of dollars. An essential skill for resolving the cases was to understand the position of both parties to the issue. His side of the case and the opponent's interpretation of the case. Basically the question was Where Are You (our side of the case) and Where Are You (their side of the case). Dr Levinsohn has a law degree from Southern Methodist University and a Masters degree from New York University. He was a CPA in New York. He moved from Dallas to Phoenix in 2001 and finished his career as the Manager for International audits. He enjoys teaching and taught many courses at the IRS and for eight years was an adjunct professor of business law at a college in Dallas. He enjoys teaching and dancing --- where the essential question is --- Where Are You?.

Mr. Eric LORING has been a full-time member of the Scottsdale Community College English Dept. since 1989, specializing in Shakespeare. He has made many trips to English to study Shakespeare, including at Oxford University and working with actors and directors at the reconstructed Globe Theatre in London. Another strong academic interest of his is Film Noir, which he also teaches. Eric is a world traveler and spends time in London and Paris when not teaching.

Mr. Patrick MILLIKIN works in the midst of the Noir Fiction world. He is a long-time staff member of The Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, which specializes in detective and mystery fiction. Patrick has a B.A. degree in English and is a freelance writer and critic whose articles and essays have appeared in various publications. His latest project is the editing of a collection of Phoenix-based crime stories, called **Phoenix Noir**, published by Akashic Press in late 2009. www.poisonedpen.com

Mr. Jim MITSUI received his M.A. in English at the University of Washington, where he took classes from William Stafford, Richard Hugo, Nelson Bentley and David Wagoner. A past recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Jim has published four books of poetry, the latest, "From a Three-Cornered World", 1997. He was a high school English teacher, taught poetry writing workshops at ASU West and has been on the staff for ASU's Annual Writers Conference. Currently he teaches for Southern New Hampshire University Online, the Phoenix Arts Commission's artSpace Program and the the Lifelong Learning Academy at Sun City Grand. He also served as a poetry editor and consultant for Scott Foresman and Harper Collins Publishers.

Ms Linda MONHEIT'S passion for music led her to start singing at an early age. She has sung opera with small companies as well as concertizing in New York City. She recorded for RCA Victor with Robert Shaw and was both a church and temple soloist. For eight years she taught and coached in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico at her Vocal Studio, which produced many talented singers and where she also gave opera lectures and classes. She is now the Coordinator: Cultural Outreach for the the Phoenix Opera Company. Linda brings great knowledge and enormous enthusiasm to her classes on music , opening up the " World of Opera" to beginners and enriching it for devotees.

Mr. Tom REES is a native Arizonan who has lived in the Valley most of his life. He holds a B.A. degree in Secondary Education from ASU with an emphasis in History. A student of history all his life, he emphasizes the importance of "who" and "why"---in addition to the "when" and "where" --- of history in order to understand our daily lives. Tom is also a local actor, most recently with the AZ Jewish Theatre, who loves to employ his theatre skills while teaching, which literally makes his classes "come alive".

Father Gregory RICE is a Catholic priest who has over 34 years of experience living and working mostly in Pakistan, plus Afghanistan, after serving in the U.S. Air Force. He is a fluent Urdu speaker and has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, Asia and Europe. For nearly 17 years he was the director of a major drug abuse treatment program in Peshawar, Pakistan. For six years he was in charge of the Caritas Afghan Refugee Program. He brings a wealth of practical experience and research to his classes on the Middle East. Other classes he teaches are "Terrorism: Morals, Motivations and Mechanisms", "Middle East: Islamic Levant, Arabian Peninsula & South Asia", "Middle East: Backgrounds & Issues" and "Middle East: Mesopotamia-Embraced by the Rivers-From the Indus to Mesopotamia". In addition to teaching, Father RICE assists at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Parish and the Native American Ministry of the Diocese of Phoenix.

Dr. Karl RIEM'S four years of post doctoral training included two years with the Medical College of Wisconsin and two with Harvard University. He is a retired psychologist, and former Chief and Assistant Professor (Geographic Faculty) of MCW, Dept. of Pediatrics, Neurology and Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health Sciences. Later, after training with the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit he worked with the Wisconsin Dept. of Corrections and Justice. He was owner and Clinical Director of State Certified Outpatient Mental Health and AODA Clinics for many decades. He was licensed in Wisconsin, Arizona, and Listed in the National Register for Health Services Providers of Psychology

Ms Paula STRICKSTEIN has BA and MA degrees in Art History. She has taught classes at the university, college and community levels since 1979, in Michigan and Arizona. Her love of art led her to study in particular the chronological development of art from Paleolithic to Contemporary, specializing in Modern Art. Ms STRICKSTEIN also has extensive experience teaching Art History.

Mr. John T. THAXTON has taught English and literature at the high school, community college and university levels. He has a B.A. degree in both English and in French, as well as an M.A. degree in English. A major interest is travel: he has lived abroad four times and been in 42 countries. www.geocities.com/jthaxton

Mr. John VAMES is an author, educator, musician and performer. He has been playing and teaching music professionally for over 40 years, including clarinet, sax, transverse flute and piano. In 1998 he discovered the healing and soothing sound of the Native American flute and since has launched hundreds of people on "flute journeys" of their own with his classes, workshops and self-instructional books. John holds an M.A. degree in Music Theory and Performance from Northwestern University. johnvames@hotmail.com

Mr. Luis Wong has been working in the computer field since 1998 specializing in hardware/software technical support, systems analysis, network administration and project management. He is currently working for an engineering firm that specializes in Computer /Printer services and corporate systems management, as well as being an Authorized Service Provider for Toshiba. His education includes a B.S. Degree in Environmental Health Science, A.A. Degrees in Network Administration and Environmental Control Technology, A+, HP, Toshiba, Lenovo and Okidata certified, MCP, and has done some post-graduate work in IT Management. www.getsystems.net
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