



## 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 Peggy AYLETT** is a teacher, artist and writer. She has done writing courses with children and adults in a number of formal and informal settings in England and North America. She holds a BA degree in psychology from Tufts University and MA in Language, the Arts and Education from University of Sussex. She is especially interested in helping people find their own form of expression and voice through writing and art. Her home is in London but she spends winters in Scottsdale.

**Mr. Byron BAILEY** is a genealogist and a speaker. He is a member and past president and treasurer of the Farmington (MI) Genealogical Society. He also currently serves as a delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council representing that society. He is also a member of the Fentress County, TN Historical Society, the West Valley Genealogical Society in Sun City, AZ, and a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild. He has been involved with indexing projects with both Ancestry.com and FamilySearch and has been a leader in putting on seminars for the Farmington Genealogical Society. His book, Donakowski Family History Book - The Frank and Agnes Donakowski Family was published in 2011. Go to his website [www.bvplus.com](http://www.bvplus.com) for more information.

**Mr. Jack EVANS** has been teaching film classes in the Valley for fourteen years, as well as classes in fiction and poetry. He is a published poet and has appeared in venues throughout the Southwest as a spoken-word and performance artist. Currently Jack is the Director of the Caffeine Corridor Spoken Word Series in downtown Phoenix. His artistic career has also included working as an independent television producer in Phoenix Public Access Television and being co-owner of a Phoenix art gallery. And like all good people of artistic temperament, he has a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the New York Institute of Technology.

**Ms 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.

**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.

**Judge Robert D. MYERS** was a trial and appellate lawyer for 25 years before he was appointed to the Bench of the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County in 1989. Judge Myers, during his judicial career, was the Presiding Judge of the Civil Department, Presiding Judge of the Probate and Mental Health Departments and in 1995 was appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court as Presiding Judge of the Court in Maricopa County. In 2002, Judge Myers retired from the Bench and was appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General by Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard. In 2005 he was appointed General Counsel to the Arizona Department of Corrections. In addition, he has taught at local law schools as well as the Arizona Judicial College.

**Ms Kitty NAGY** was born and educated privately in London, England. Her studies were in languages, and she has lived in several European countries, as well as in Canada and California, before settling in Arizona. She ran a small international investment company for over 25 years and is a self-confessed Financial Markets “addict”. For the last three years, she has given “Kitty’s Cultural Chats” at more than 38 Retirement Centers throughout the Valley. Covering a wide range of subjects, her series of over 20 talks---illustrated with excerpts from movies--- is lively, entertaining and informative.

**Mr. Bill (William) SAMUELS** intellectual interest for many years has been an intensive study of the American Civil War, through both extensive reading and visiting most of the main battlefields of the war. His interest started when he was nine years old and viewed Union Civil War veterans during Memorial Day parades in Chicago. He has membership in both the Chicago and Scottsdale Civil War Roundtables and has done classes in Scottsdale High Schools on this subject. Mr. SAMUELS is a retired real estate banker

**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.

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*Instructor Bios*