

# Permanent Things

The Russell Kirk Center *Newsletter*

Number 32 ✦ Spring 2018

## Kirk on Campus Program Debuts at Hope College

The Kirk Center's new outreach initiative called Kirk on Campus held its first event on November 16, 2017 at Hope College, in Holland, Michigan. Three distinguished public intellectuals—*New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat, historian and former *New York Times Book Review* editor Sam Tanenhaus, and Senior Editor of *First Things* Mark Bauerlein—engaged in a discussion concerning “Trump and the Future of American Democracy.” Hope College professor of political science, Dr. Jeff Polet, moderated the panel.



More than 600 attendees packed the auditorium for an evening of serious yet lively conservative thought.

*The Holland Sentinel* called the event “refreshing” and “collegial.” *Sentinel* editor Sarah Leach added in a podcast recorded at the event, “I’m really impressed with the depth of the discussion and the level of analysis... no matter what your political affiliation might be, this was a quality discussion that would appeal to just about everybody.”

*continued on page 2.*

*Above: Ross Douthat, Mark Bauerlein, and Sam Tanenhaus discussing “Trump and the Future of American Democracy” at Hope College.*

Kirk on Campus *continued from page 1*

During the course of 40 years, Russell Kirk spoke at over 400 American campuses on themes ranging from political thought and practice, educational theory, and literary criticism, to modern culture. He also debated some of the most high-profile socialists, liberals, and radicals of the era. Following in that tradition, Kirk on Campus is a unique source of cultural conservative thought, which fills a critical niche in the national conversation. The program will bring scholars unashamed but not uncritical of the great legacy of America and the West to schools across Michigan and its neighboring region. In doing so, it will contribute to a greater variety of thought and informed opinion, as well as to cultivate much-needed civilized discourse.



*Above: Mark Bauerlein talking with students before the event.*

The Kirk Center is currently organizing events at several campuses in Michigan for the fall semester. Check our separate website [kirkoncampus.org](http://kirkoncampus.org) for news of the colleges, topics and dates as they are confirmed.

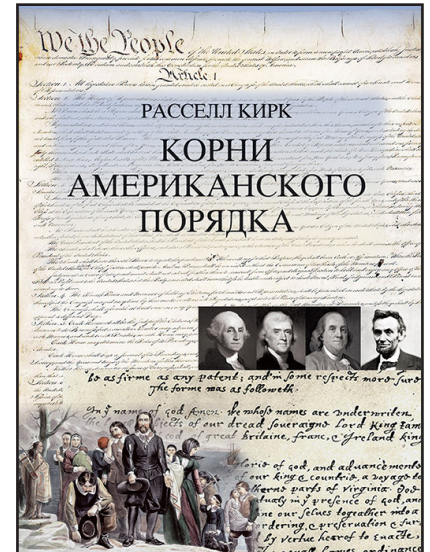
## KIRK CENTER FELLOWS **SPOTLIGHT** Former Center Fellow translates *The Roots of American Order* into Russian

When Dr. Kirk's important book *The Roots of American Order* was first published in 1976, who would have believed that it would be published in the former USSR more than 40 years later? Translated by Marina Kizima, a Professor at the Department of World Literature and Culture of Moscow State Institute of International Relations, the Russian language edition has just been published. Dr. Kizima has twice participated as a researcher in the Fulbright Program at Yale University and at Harvard University. American literature, culture and intellectual tradition have always been in the center of Dr. Kizima's scholarly interests.

While writing her first book on the literature of the American South, Marina completed most of her



*Above: Dr. Kizima was a residential Fellow at the Kirk Center while writing on a book on American literature..*



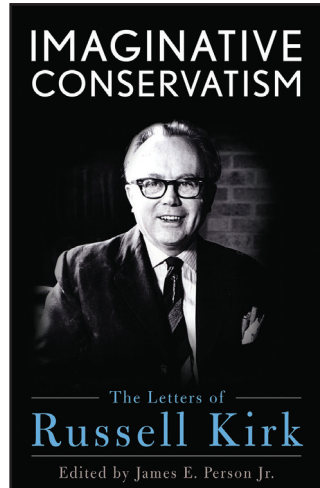
*Above: The Russian edition of The Roots of American Order, translated by Marina Kizima, was recently published in Russia.*

research at Dr. Kirk's library as a residential Fellow. In addition, Dr. Kirk arranged for her to meet Andrew Lytle, one of the Southern Agrarians, and have a series of talks with him. This research produced the book *Glimpses of the Southern Literary Renaissance: the Fugitives, the Agrarians, and the New Critics* which was published in Moscow in 1995. Subsequently, she has been a visiting Fellow at the Kirk Center on several occasions. The Kirk Center thanks Marina for her perseverance in translating this key guide to Western civilization into the Russian language.



## Collected Letters of Russell Kirk Forthcoming

*Imaginative Conservatism: The Letters of Russell Kirk*, a selection of 190 of Dr. Kirk's most provocative and insightful letters, will be published by the University of Kentucky Press in May. Carefully annotated by editor James Person, the collection includes correspondence between Kirk and prominent figures T. S. Eliot, William F. Buckley Jr., Ray Bradbury, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Charlton Heston, Nikolai Tolstoy, Wendell Berry, Richard Nixon, and Herbert Hoover, among many others. In addition, there are letters to less famous but no less significant friends, family members, colleagues, students, and ordinary readers of Kirk's syndicated column.



Above: James Person, editor of the Letters, spoke with the John Adams Society of Harvard University at the Kirk Library in 2017.

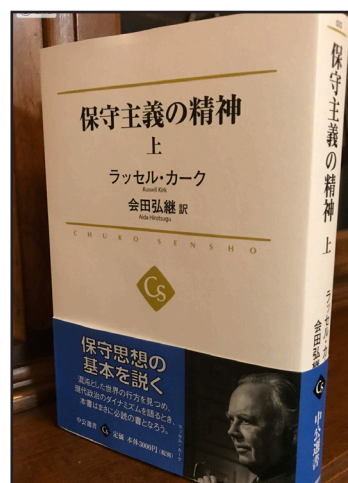
The University of Kentucky Press is also issuing a paperback edition of Bradley Birzer's award-winning biography *Russell Kirk: American Conservative* (2015), which makes an excellent companion to the *Letters*.

## Japan Marks Kirk Centenary with Publication of *The Conservative Mind*

While Russell Kirk did much to enliven our particular Anglo-American tradition of conservatism, the universal dimension of his work is finding a new audience in a much different cultural context. This spring, the Japanese translation of *The Conservative Mind* was published in two volumes by Chuo-Koron Publishing, one of the oldest and most prestigious publishers in Japan.

Translator Hiro Aida is a professor at the School of Global Studies and Collaboration at Aoyama Gakuin University in Japan and a well-known journalist. In a forthcoming article for *Shukan Toyo Keizai*, a Japanese economics weekly, entitled "The Conservative Thinker Kirk Tells Us the Meaning of the Marx Revival," Professor Aida suggests that the centennial of Russell Kirk's birth in 2018 might be an occasion to help better understand the bicentennial of Karl Marx's birth this same year. He writes, "Russell Kirk tells us in his magnum opus *The Conservative Mind* how to read Marx, who seems to come back to us at this age of confusion."

The Kirk Center congratulates Professor Aida on this magnificent achievement. It is a reminder that Kirk's works speak to the Permanent Things that we share across cultures.



Left: The first volume of the Japanese translation of *The Conservative Mind*. In Japan, a well-made book has a belt, a strip of paper looped around the book, as shown here.

## 2018: THE CENTENARY OF RUSSELL KIRK'S BIRTH

Russell Kirk was born on October 19, 1918 in Plymouth, Michigan. This year, the Center celebrates the centennial of his birth with a number of events and publications focused on Dr. Kirk's life and work. The first event was a public lecture by historian and journalist Dr. Lee Edwards on "Our Cultural Crisis: A Kirkian Response" at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., on March 14. The well-attended lecture was live streamed for an international audience.

**"IN THE PRESENT CULTURAL CRISIS, WE NEED RUSSELL KIRK'S IDEA OF ORDERED LIBERTY MORE THAN EVER."**

*-Lee Edwards*

To be notified of upcoming events and just-published articles discussing Dr. Kirk's ideas and influence, follow the Russell Kirk Center on Facebook and Twitter: @KirkCenter. Plans for the dedication of a Michigan Historical Marker are underway and tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 20. The Marker ceremony will be followed by an open house at the Kirk home in Mecosta, Michigan. All are invited to attend by registering on our website, available beginning in July.



*Russell Kirk as a boy in Plymouth, Michigan*



*Students from Hillsdale College's honors program were excited to participate in a weekend seminar this March.*



*Professor of Classics Eric Hutchinson (center) led the seminar on the topic "Man as Maker in Moral Perspective."*

## New Website to be Unveiled

The Kirk Center's website is currently being completely redesigned and will be unveiled this summer. We invite you to explore the site and check back frequently as we will continue to add information on new programs. The site will also feature timeless essays by Dr. Kirk on a regular basis to bring you a curated selection of Kirk's wisdom.

If you are not receiving the Center's monthly email announcements, please provide us with your email address via the new signup on the homepage.

**We encourage you to help support our mission.**

Tax deductible donations may be sent to:

The Russell Kirk Center,  
P.O. Box 4, Mecosta, MI 49332  
[www.kirkcenter.org](http://www.kirkcenter.org)