

# Permanent Things

The Russell Kirk Center Newsletter

Number 37 ❁ Fall 2020

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Live Streamed from the Kirk Library

On October 21, the Russell Kirk Center held a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary virtual gala featuring a walking tour of Dr. Kirk's library. Annette Kirk and staff members guided viewers around the place where Kirk wrote his books and led seminars for students and professors.

Noted historian George Nash delivered an engaging keynote talk in which he considered the significance of Kirk's work and its bearing on the Center's purpose and programs. He paid tribute to the distinctive perspective the Center brings to the conservative cause, focusing on what Ronald Reagan called "the ancient truths of our civilization." And the significance of doing so in a cozy campus setting intimately associated with one of American conservatism's founding fathers.

The video of the event has been widely praised on social media for its high quality. If you were not able to join us that evening, you may view the 53-minute video on our website, [kirkcenter.org](http://kirkcenter.org).



Annette Kirk, accompanied by staff and Board members, concluded the presentation with a toast of Russell Kirk's recipe for "Mecosta Fruit Punch."



This leather bookmark, stamped with Dr. Kirk's own bookplate design, was made by a local bookbinder for the Center's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign. Please see page 3 for more information.

## Kirk Center Intern Spotlight

**K**ieran Morgan, a senior at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, spent part of last summer as an intern at the Kirk Center. He was the first person to assist with the Center's new digital archive project to convert Russell Kirk's articles from print journals into digital files. Some of these articles have recently been posted on the website's "Classic Kirk" page. We are pleased to note that Kieran will be returning for a few weeks between semesters this winter to continue the project.

While in the library, Kieran took the opportunity to read widely as he plans to become a history teacher:

"Through my internship, I have been reconnected with thinkers from Cicero to T. S. Eliot; my knowledge of the giants who helped to build our culture has grown tremendously. However, the historical figure that has had the greatest impact on me is this organization's namesake: Russell Kirk. As a historian, social critic, and man of letters, Kirk has not only renewed my passion for learning but introduced me to ideas that are never discussed in a typical classroom."



*Kieran Morgan with Wesley Reynolds, director of the Wilbur Fellows program, and Fellows Evangeline Soutsos and Abigail Anderson.*

## Seminars Resume this Fall



*On October 17, Michigan college students were happy to attend an in-person seminar, with modifications, at the Kirk Center. Above, Hope College students, masked but not silent, gather during this "little platoon" seminar sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. Left, a Calvin University student asks a question before a discussion of citizenship in Robert Frost's poem "The Mending Wall."*

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign: Enlivening the Permanent Things for Rising Generations

Over the course of twenty-five years, the Russell Kirk Center has provided the ideal conditions for thousands of students and professionals to deepen their understanding of Western civilization and the American experience within it. There is a pressing need for just this sort of intellectual formation today.

In this, the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Center, we ask for your support to continue and expand the educational programs that reinvigorate our cultural heritage of learning, faith, and ordered liberty. Please consider supporting the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign by joining one of the Kirk Center's new donor member Circles. Each Circle name illustrates an example of the educational programs which it makes possible.



For this occasion, the Kirk Center has created some beautifully designed gifts to indicate membership in each Circle. As an additional incentive, each Circle builds to include the previous level's gifts.

### Supporter Circle

*(up to \$500) — sponsor a student visit*

Receive a gift of our first e-book “Russell Kirk: Select Essays for Our Times,” a carefully selected collection of five essays.

### Mecosta Circle

*(\$500 - \$2,500) — sponsor a residential Fellowship*

Receive a leather bookmark stamped with Dr. Kirk's bookplate design.

### John Adams Circle

*(\$2,500 - \$5,000) — host a weekend seminar*

Receive a certificate with a background sketch of the Kirk library and your acknowledgment as a “Defender of the Permanent Things.”

### Cicero Circle

*(\$5,000 to \$25,000) — support a panel discussion on campus*

Receive a copy of *The Roots of American Order* inscribed to you by Annette Kirk.

### Burke Circle

*(\$25,000 and above) — sustain the library building and resources*

Your name will be inscribed on a plaque to be permanently displayed in the Russell Kirk Library.

To join a Circle, simply mark the box on the reply envelope and enclose your check made payable to the Russell Kirk Center. Donations to the Russell Kirk Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information, please see [25years.kirkcenter.org](http://25years.kirkcenter.org).

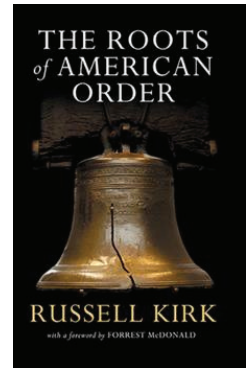
## Upcoming

### High School Students' Conference Planned for the Summer of 2021

The Kirk Center is launching a new program this coming summer for high school students based upon Russell Kirk's book *The Roots of American Order*. That book traces the origins of the American tradition of order, justice, and freedom through Hebraic and Christian belief, classical philosophy and law, and British political experience, and the ideas and institutions of colonial and early-republican America. Over the course of the conference, speakers will explore these themes through the significance of five cities: Jerusalem; Athens; Rome; London; and Philadelphia.

Dr. Kirk wrote that this book is his effort to "assist in renewing an appreciation of America's moral and social order." By drawing upon his work, we are delighted to offer a formative educational experience to high school students for the first time.

The conference will be limited to 25 students and a few high school teachers and is tentatively scheduled for early August. If you are interested in participating in the program, please provide your contact information to [info@kirkcenter.org](mailto:info@kirkcenter.org). The conference logistics are not yet set due to uncertainty regarding Covid-19 restrictions, but we hope to be able to provide registration information in early 2021.



*Seminar participants gathered outside the library this past summer.*



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Things

*Permanent Things*, the biannual newsletter of the Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, is edited by Cecilia Kirk Nelson.

To subscribe and to receive monthly e-letters and invitations to events between newsletters, please sign up at the Kirk Center website's connect page. For additional copies of this newsletter, please contact [admin@kirkcenter.org](mailto:admin@kirkcenter.org) or call 231-972-5590.

We encourage you to help support our mission.

**Tax deductible donations may be sent to:**

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