

## STUDY CIRCLE

February 2021

### World Cultures through Poetry and Stories

Meets Online Tuesday Evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm

For the month of February 2021, the Study Circle will explore various world cultures through their stories and poetry. We will look for what the symbols of transformation and renewal are, and what they tell us about that culture. Each week a short article or essay will be posted on the Institute website for each meeting. It would benefit the discussion if everyone could read the article beforehand. If you are not able to print the article, please contact [donna@worldculture.org](mailto:donna@worldculture.org). There will be a brief introduction to the topic at the beginning of each meeting and the rest of the time will be open for discussion. We very much look forward to your participation.

#### Topics for Discussion

Be sure to check <http://www.worldculture.org> for more information and readings

#### **Feb 2 Amanda Gorman and "The Hill We Climb"**

U.S. National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman caught the attention of the world when she read a poem she had written specifically for the inauguration of the 46th President of the United States, Joseph Biden Jr. Her poem, "The Hill We Climb," opens with a question about the human condition writ large: "When day comes we ask ourselves / where can we find light in this never-ending shade?" We will look at what she is saying in the poem and what it is saying about the U.S.

#### **Feb 9 Japanese Culture through Haiku**

A haiku is the world's shortest poem yet despite its succinct form, it contains the essence of Japanese people's aesthetics, view of nature, philosophy, thought, and sentiments. "A brief glimpse, a poem or two, a piece of history, some personal experience."

#### **Feb 16 Russian Culture and Its Poetry**

The subject of Russian poetry is as vast as the country itself. In this presentation, we will explore its artistic origins – the 'Golden Age' of Russian poetry of the early 19th century, which was the earliest era of Russian poetry as a national art form. Poets we will look at are: Vasily Zhukovsky, Alexander Pushkin, Yevgeny Baratynsky and Mikhail Lermontov.

#### **Feb 23 Sindh Music and Poetry**

Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, the 17th century Sindhi poet, has captured the hearts and imagination of the Sindhis, an ethno-linguistic group who are native to the Sindh province of Pakistan. For nearly three hundred years, wherever there are Sindhis, his message of the unity present in diversity is extolled. A glimpse into his poetry reveals the transformative power of his belief in the power of love.