



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting **February 27, 2019** at **11:00 a.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT**

**Theresa Kelleher, Ph.D.**

**“The Silk Road: Multi-culturalism in Pre-modern Times”**



The vast territory between western China and Iran, which in the popular imagination has been termed the Silk Road, was one of the most multi-cultural places on earth, as Chinese, Arabs, Turks, Mongols, Iranians, and Europeans (such as Marco Polo) made their way back and forth. A network of ancient trade routes rather than a single thoroughfare, the Silk Road was formally established during the Han Dynasty of China in 139 BCE, and linked the regions of the ancient world in commerce until 1453 CE when the Ottoman Empire boycotted trade with the west and closed the routes. Professor Theresa Kelleher will discuss some of the results of the intermingling of trade, religion, the arts, and even food that took place.

The greatest value of the Silk Road was the exchange of culture. Art, religion, philosophy, technology, language, science, architecture were exchanged along these routes. They were carried with the commercial goods the merchants traded from country to country. While many different kinds of merchandise traveled along the Silk Road, the name comes from the popularity of Chinese silk in the west, especially in Rome.

Some of the more important goods that went from the West to the East included horses, grapevines, glassware, and woolen goods. As for some of the famous goods that went from China to the West, they included paper, porcelain (“china”), tea, gunpowder, and of course, the most famous of all, silk.

Professor Kelleher started her career in Asian Studies as an undergraduate at Manhattanville and returned later to teach in the department. After receiving an M.A. in Chinese literature from the University of Hawaii, she earned a Ph.D. from the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department of Columbia University, specializing in Chinese Confucianism. Her interests in Asia are broad and varied: children’s education, women in Buddhism and Confucianism, the Silk Road, and American missionaries in China. Her most recent publication, *The Journal of Wu Yubi: the Path to Sagehood*, is a translation and commentary on a Confucian diary that shows the private anguish and joys of a 14th-century Chinese commoner trying to make sense of his life. She retired from teaching at the end of 2016, having served as chair of the Asian Studies Department at Manhattanville for over twenty years.

**Next week: March 6, Clarinda Higgins with William G. Armstrong Jr., Authors, “Against the Current: How Albert Schweitzer Inspired a Young Man’s Journey.”** *The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at 10:40 AM followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00 AM. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org)*