

Free Minds 2nd Saturdays

Spring 2020



- M Station Classroom (2906 East MLK Jr., above the leasing office)
- 10 am - noon. We will have bagels and coffee; you're invited to bring brunch items to share!
- Childcare provided by M Station Learning Center staff—kiddos and guests are welcome!

Visit www.freemindsaustin.org/events to learn more.

February 8

They Took an Oath: Honoring Texas' First Black Legislators

After the Civil War, 52 African American men served as legislators and Constitutional Convention Delegates in Texas. Their accomplishments and service are rarely recognized. However, in 2010 a monument in their honor was unveiled at the Texas State Cemetery, an effort spearheaded by Free Minds graduate **Larry Thomas**. Larry will join us to commemorate these often-forgotten legislators, to explore their legislation and the relevance it has today for college education, voting rights, Juneteenth, and more. We will view an exhibit on the legislators and take an optional trip to the cemetery to visit the memorial.

Larry Thomas served as Project Director for the 19th Century Texas Black Legislators' Monument in 2010 and is a graduate and class speaker of the Free Minds Class of 2008.

March 14

The Ethics of Faith: When, If Ever, Is It OK to Believe?

More often than we may realize, we form beliefs in the absence of compelling evidence. From hunches about whether to pursue a second date to significant decisions about career changes, we may find ourselves inclined to "follow the heart" or "trust the gut". This kind of faith can be useful, but sometimes dangerous. In this session, led by ACC philosophy professor Antonio Ramirez, we will explore different views on when faith is best pursued, and when it is best avoided. Our conversations will incorporate fun examples (*Star Wars*) as well as more serious ones (gambling, love, and religious faith).

Antonio Ramirez is a professor of philosophy, and has taught for 15 years at ACC, De Anza College in CA, and the Clemente Course in New Bedford, MA.

April 11

Staging *Twelve Angry Jurors*

ACC Drama is bringing the courthouse play *Twelve Angry Jurors* to its Acting Studio stage this spring, and we get an inside peek. In this play, adapted for stage by Sherman L. Sergel, 12 jurors must decide whether to convict a young man accused of murdering in his father. In the process, they weigh evidence, debate, and confront their own biases. Student director **Glen Bird**, theater professor **Perry Crafton**, and cast members will guide us through this classic piece of theater, from script to stage. We'll learn what it takes to mount a play and consider the resonance of this dramatization of a homicide trial more than 50 years after it was first performed. Students will have the option to see the play live the following week.

For more information about ACC's drama season, visit austincc.edu/drama/.