



# Renaissance Institute



NOTRE DAME  
OF MARYLAND  
UNIVERSITY

## SPRING 2024

Lifelong Learning



# EXPLORE. DREAM. DISCOVER.

Trying something new can take you to places you've never investigated. Pursue your painting or history passion. Join a writing workshop. Discover new developments in science and technology.

**K**eeping the minds, bodies, and spirits of adults age 50+ flexible since 1989, the Renaissance Institute is a lifelong learning community housed on the main campus of Notre Dame of Maryland University.

Renaissance Institute offers two semesters of noncredit courses, designed and led primarily by the members themselves. As a member, you may take as many classes as you wish from our varied catalog of offerings and, when ready, share your acquired knowledge by teaching courses on subjects you are passionate about. Course topics have included literature, public affairs, philosophy, history, music, art, languages, tai chi, film, science, computers, yoga, acting, and more.

We also offer member-sponsored activities and travel opportunities. Past trips have included Costa Rica, the Canadian Maritimes, the Grand Tetons, and the Southwest U.S.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Take as many Renaissance Institute courses as you like each registered semester
- Audit one credited Notre Dame of Maryland University course for \$195
- Access the Notre Dame/Loyola library, computer lab, dining hall and fitness center
- Receive a Notre Dame ID card that can be used for student discounts
- Apply for an Amazon Prime Student account through your Notre Dame student email account
- Free parking accessible to the NDMU campus
- Free download of Microsoft Office 365

**COST:** \$265 for the Spring Semester

**DATES AND TIMES:** Dates and times will be as stated in the catalog. Spring 2024 classes will host some offerings by remote delivery via Zoom and others in person on the Notre Dame of Maryland University Campus

**MORE INFORMATION:** [sbigley1@ndm.edu](mailto:sbigley1@ndm.edu), [sadams@ndm.edu](mailto:sadams@ndm.edu)

The background of the page features a large, light blue circular logo for the Renaissance Institute. The logo contains the text "RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE" in a serif font, with "1989" at the bottom. A large, stylized "RI" is in the center.

# **Tuesday**

## **First 6 Week Classes**

**Feb 06 – March 12**



## 9:15AM – 10:30AM

### 1. Macbeth: A Fresh Look (Limit 20)

**Campus**

Instructor: George Kessler

We shall explore this old chestnut in a variety of formats: reading aloud, discussion, film clips, a skosh of lecture, and anything else class members bring to the session. Even interpretive dance or spontaneous musical outbursts would be welcome. The goal is to mine new insights into an oft-studied classic while letting the joy of the Shakespeare experience take us where it may.

**Textbook: *Macbeth* -- Dover Thrift edition. This is available on Amazon for \$2.99.**

*Emerging from the mean streets of Baltimore, I achieved a Baltimore City High School diploma. After 45 years of teaching in the city, I am striving to maintain the barest thread of dignity.*

### 2. Beginning Birdwatching – Part 1 (Limit 50)

**Campus**

Instructor: Don Burggraf

Using PowerPoint presentations, we will cover the basics of birdwatching, from species identification to birding equipment and more. This course has been taught before at the Renaissance Institute, but will include updates, focusing attention on birds in the local area. The course may include one or more optional field trips. In Part 1 we will review basic concepts and practical tips for the would-be birdwatcher.

*Don Burggraf is a retired Lutheran Pastor. He has been birding for almost 60 years. He is a member of the American Birding Association and the Baltimore Bird Club. He has taught this course several times previously in the RI, as well as courses on various themes related to the Bible and religion.*

### 3. Acting Improvisation (Limit 20)

**Campus**

Instructor: Natalie Pilcher

Come join the Improvisation class in a fun and relaxed setting. Tap into your creative imagination as you participate in comedic off-the-cuff theatre games such as One Minute Professor, Yes, and . . . Questions Only, Rewind, and Gibberish Chat. This class is a no-pressure way to enjoy collaborating with a group as we create a safe space to explore unscripted, ad-libbed dramatics. In theatre, it is called a “play” after all!

*Natalie Pilcher is a professional actor, director, teacher and playwright. Between acting at Theatre Project, Actor's Ensemble, and others, she's taught at Catonsville Community College, Oldfields, St. Paul's Schools, and Peabody Preparatory. She's directed productions at these schools, Pumpkin Theatre, Maryland School for the Blind, and Krieger Schechter among others. Natalie was an Artist in Residence for the Maryland State Arts Council.*

### 4. Memory Pictures/Writers' Workshop–Part 1 (Limit 18)    **Hybrid**

Instructor: Elizabeth Fanto

Writers will write on self-selected topics in and out of class; respond to mini-lessons on fiction, non-fiction and poetry models; share their efforts in response groups; and revise works as they choose. Beginning writers are welcome.

*Elizabeth is a graduate of TSU, with a B.S. in Education and a Master's in English. She taught high school English and Creative Writing in BCPS, and sponsored Dulaney's literary/art magazine for six years. She has taught RI writing classes for 22 years. She was editor of Reflections magazine for 6 years.*

## 5. Pastel Drawing - Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

Explore the world of pastels! Discover their vibrant and soft varieties. In this class, we'll primarily focus on soft pastels known for easy blending and forgiveness. We'll explore still life, animals, and portraits, creating a soft and gentle look unique to these pastels. Both beginners and advanced artists are welcome to join this colorful journey into the world of pastels.

*Alina Kurbiel hails from Silesia, Poland, where she earned her Master's degree from Silesian University. Following a successful career as a web developer and graphic designer with tech companies in Maryland, she transitioned to the world of traditional art. She mainly works in watercolors, ink and pencils. She is a signature artist of Baltimore Watercolor Society.*

## 6. Spanish is Fun – Intermediate – Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This will be a continuation of the class held in the fall. It will be held on Zoom and participation is highly encouraged. We will involve grammar and culture as we discuss some of the following topics: daily routines, what we did in the past and what we used to do in the past, sports, vacation activities, and shopping. Cultural and literary readings will also be discussed.

**Textbook: *Spanish is Fun, Book 2***

*Judy has been a high school Spanish teacher for over 40 years, 30 of them in the school system in Baltimore City. She has also taught on the college level and taught at RI for a number of years, ending about five years ago. She is also currently teaching Spanish via Zoom in her community (Leisure World in Silver Spring). She received her BA from American University and her MA from Coppin State University. She also studied for two summers in Spain.*

## 7. To Live in Hope Not Fear

**Zoom**

Instructor: Betty Loafmann

Since we live in an era of political unrest, we can benefit from reading Jon Meacham's book, *The Soul of America*. He provides a perspective on U.S. history that clarifies the reasons to hope for a better future rather than live in fear. This course will examine his analysis of our reaction to past crises.

**Textbook:** *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham

*Betty has studied history all her life and taught courses on the Middle Ages, Jane Austen, American politics and the Bible as well as several others. She has been a member of RI for 12 years and served in a number of offices.*

## 8. Qigong – A Mind/Body/Spirit Movement Class - Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Pamela Tanton

We do standing and seated movements in a beautiful sequence that stimulates the energy flow in your body. The movements are gentle, and you can adapt them in ways that feel good to you. If you choose to sit during the entire class, that's fine! It's all about calming down with slow, deep breathing, moving your joints in a gentle way, and having some fun in the process. Qigong is an internal healing art, and it's part of Chinese medicine. All you need to do is follow the teacher. And breathe.

*Pamela Tanton has been teaching qigong for about two decades. Her main goal is to help people enjoy doing the movements during class, and to help them feel really good when class is over--relaxed and calm and quiet.*

## **11:00AM – 12:15PM**

### **9. Great Decisions – Part 1 (Limit 24)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Ken Pfeifer and Tim Casey

Discussion of Foreign Policy topics that have and will have a major impact on the US and the world. The course is prepared by foreign policy experts in each of the fields. Class will have a video (20 minutes) and class discussion. CLASS PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED.

**Material Fee: Briefing Book is required, cost is \$35 and available in RI Office**

*Tim Casey is a former corporate executive and international consultant. Tim has been a RI member for 4 years. Ken Pfeifer was a former international consultant and a member of RI for 13 years.*

### **10. Renaissance Singers – Part 1 (Limit 50)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Nancy Heinold

We are a four-part harmony choir. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to participate. Music will be provided and there are no auditions. Everyone is welcome! This is not a sing-along or a choir singing renaissance music. We perform a variety of genres.

*Nancy has been the conductor of the Renaissance Singers for many years. She has been an organist and choir director of an Episcopal Church for 35 years and been involved with music all of her life.*

### **11. Chair Yoga – Part 1 (Limit 40)**

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Linda McGill

Staying seated means that even those who aren't flexible can safely do the exercises. This is an excellent way to loosen and stretch painful muscles, reduce stress, and improve circulation, while lowering blood pressure, protecting joints, and building strength and balance. We will also do some poses at the end of class standing, using the chair as a prop. We will focus on moving with the breath, and start and end class with a meditation, leaving you feeling peaceful and grounded.

*Linda McGill is a Roland Park native of 33 years. She is a certified 500 hr YTT Yoga Meditation Teacher.*



## 12. Beginning International Folk Dance (Limit 20)

**Campus**

Instructor: Paul Kreiss

Learn circle and line dances from many countries, in particular from the Balkans and the Middle East, in RI's friendly, supportive "village." Enjoy music from these varied traditions and discover how music and dance intertwine with everyday life. All are welcome--no experience or partner needed. Comfortable low-heeled shoes and clothing in layers are recommended. Vaccination and masking will be requested.

*Paul Kreiss has been teaching international folk dancing for about 40 years. He is a retired chemistry professor and knowledgeable birder. (Members of the Baltimore International Folk-Dance group will help with dances, music, and tech.)*

## 13. Living Better as We Age

**Zoom**

Instructor: Phyllis Meyerson

The presentations will be delivered by 6 different providers and are based on achieving and maintaining better health care as one ages, e.g., "Advanced Care Planning" urges one to plan for their health care before they become unable to communicate, "The Brain and Body Health" class discusses total Wellness concepts, "Caregiving" prepares us to care for our loved ones or to accept being cared for.

*Phyllis Meyerson graduated from American University with a degree in psychology, and from Catholic University with a Master's degree in clinical Social Work. She worked as a psychotherapist for 25+ years and a Mental Health manager for an additional five. She retired and volunteered with the Department of Aging as an Ombudsman and with the Red Cross on the Disaster Action Team. She has been coordinator of AARP Maryland's Speaker's Bureau for the past 5 years.*

## 14. Walks in the Walters

**Zoom**

Instructor: Sheila Vidmar

A series of Zoom presentations concerning the art and objects at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. “Exploring” the galleries via Zoom, we can examine, discuss, and compare paintings, sculpture and objects. We can also compare and contrast things that are not near each other in the museum, or not often on view. Our goal will be to have some fun, hone observation skills, and gain deeper appreciation of art of different times, different cultures, and different regions.

*Sheila Vidmar retired from a career as an attorney and became a volunteer docent at the Walters Art Museum in 2013. In addition to touring in the galleries, she enjoys developing online presentations to showcase the Walters.*

## 15. Spanish is Fun – Beginners - Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This will be a continuation of the class held in the fall. It will be held on Zoom and participation is highly encouraged. We will involve grammar and culture as we discuss some of the following topics: time, activities, descriptions of people and objects, professions and trades, dates, body parts, etc.

**Textbook:** *Spanish is Fun, Book 1*

*Judy has been a high school Spanish teacher for over 40 years, 30 of them in the school system in Baltimore City. She has also taught on the college level and taught at RI for a number of years, ending about five years ago. She is also currently teaching Spanish via Zoom in her community (Leisure World in Silver Spring). She received her BA from American University and her MA from Coppin State University. She also studied for two summers in Spain.*

## 16. New Yorker Roundtable- Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Brian Young

The New Yorker Roundtable is a lightly moderated discussion of articles in current issues of the magazine. Each week, 4-5 articles are selected for reading and discussion. The discussion includes the topic, writing style, and reader reaction.

**Material Fee: Participants need to acquire copies of *The New Yorker* by subscription, online, or from the library**

*Brian is retired from the aerospace industry where he held various positions, most prominently in Program Management. He has been reading The New Yorker and participating in discussion groups for 12 years.*

## **1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **17. Radio Theatre Performance Workshop (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Natalie Pilcher

Radio Theatre Performance Workshop - Join our informal theatre production as we explore classic radio stories, commercials, and original scripts. No memorization required, actors will have scripts in hand. This course will introduce techniques used to present voice acting in the 'old-time' radio style. Class members will also learn the art of Foley, creating sound effects in real time as the stories unfold. Crash boxes, cow bells, drums etc. will either be provided or created by students with materials brought in by the instructor.

**Material List: List to be provided by instructor.**

*Natalie Pilcher is an actor, director, teacher, and playwright. Between acting at Theatre Project, Allenberry Playhouse, and other theatres, she has taught at Catonsville Community College, Peabody Preparatory, The St. Paul's Schools, and Oldfields. She's directed productions at these schools, Maryland School for the Blind, Krieger Schechter Day School, and Jemicy. Natalie was previously an Artist in Residence for the Maryland State Arts Council.*

### **18. Ink and Watercolor – Part 1**

**Zoom**

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

Ink and watercolor, a relaxed and enjoyable class, will commence with a basic pencil sketch, followed by the application of ink. We'll delve into a variety of inking techniques using permanent inks, allowing for watercolor overlays. Subjects will span spring flowers, animals, and architecture, and we'll explore the use of ink and watercolor in art travel journaling. These courses are suitable for both beginners and advanced artists, making them accessible to all who wish to participate.

*Alina Kurbiel hails from Silesia, Poland, where she earned her Master's degree from Silesian University. Following a successful career as a web developer and graphic designer with tech companies in Maryland, she transitioned to the world of traditional art. She mainly works in watercolors, ink and pencils. She is a signature artist of Baltimore Watercolor Society.*

## **1:15PM – 2:30PM**

### **19. Topics in Religion & Politics-Part 1(Parts 1&2 Required) (Limit 35)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Fr. Steve Spahn, S.J.

While it's often said that religion and politics are two topics best avoided in polite conversation, this lecture and discussion course will survey a number of pressing political topics from the vantage of Christian faith. What light can Christian faith shed on these political controversies? And how is Christian faith necessarily political? These and other thorny questions will be considered in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

*A member of Loyola University's Jesuit Community, Fr. Spahn teaches theology and directs Ignatian retreats and programs. He is a native of Colorado, the youngest of ten children and a proud alumnus of several Jesuit schools (Georgetown, Fordham and Boston College).*

### **20. Nia Fitness Class – Part 1 (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Rebecca Donnelly

Nia is a fitness class that combines 9 different movement forms: 3 styles of dance, 3 styles of martial arts, and 3 styles of healing arts. We move all parts of our body while having so much fun listening to music and being in the moment. The technique can be adapted to suit all fitness levels. We don't take ourselves too seriously but we do get a lot of cardio with a low impact workout.

*Rebecca has been practicing different movement forms for many years and practicing Nia for close to 10 years. She holds a Black Belt in the Nia technique. And when she is not on the dance floor, she is practicing acupuncture at her studio, BlueGreen Acupuncture and Bodywork just around the corner on Cold Spring Lane.*



## 21. Poetry Workshop – Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Susan Marshall

In Poetry Workshop we present a poem each week to be shared and gently critiqued by fellow members. A suggested assignment is presented for each week which may or may not be followed, as the poet decides.

*Susan Marshall earned both her B.A. and her Master's degree from NDMU. She has coordinated the Poetry Workshop for several years.*

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# **Tuesday**

## **Second 6 Week Classes**

**March 26 – April 30**

## **9:15AM – 10:30AM**

### **22. On First Looking into Wilson's Iliad (Limit 24)**

**Campus**

Instructor: John Russell

After translating Homer's *Odyssey* six years ago, Emily Wilson has just completed, to mostly positive reviews, a new "more readable" translation of *The Iliad*. It seems a good time to reexamine the epic poem, paying particular attention to the role of the translator. In addition to reading the epic we will discuss the role of the translator with examples from a variety of editions. After all, in the words of Robert Frost, "Poetry is what is lost in translation." Is it?

*As an undergraduate John majored in Classical and Modern European history, has a MAT and taught history and social sciences in secondary schools. On good days, he considers himself a poet.*

### **23. American Comedians in the Age of Radio, Television, and Movies (Limit 40)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Edward Berkowitz

Who did Americans find funny in the age of movies, radio, and television? How did the humor of these comedians mesh with the temper of their times? To answer these questions, the course examines the lives of leading comedians such as Groucho Marx, Jack Benny, Bob Hope, Woody Allen, and Lou Costello and puts those lives into a historical context. The course will follow a lecture format with plenty of time for class discussion. No external reading required.

*Ed Berkowitz, a professor emeritus of history, has taught at Renaissance since retiring from George Washington University in 2018.*

## 24. Beginning Birdwatching – Part 2 (Limit 50)

**Campus**

Instructor: Don Burggraf

Using PowerPoint presentations, we will cover the basics of birdwatching, from species identification to birding equipment and more. This course has been taught before at the Renaissance Institute, but will include updates, focusing attention on birds in the local area. The course may include one or more optional field trips. In Part 2 we will go over various families of birds with an eye for species identification.

*Don Burggraf is a retired Lutheran Pastor. He has been birding for almost 60 years. He is a member of the American Birding Association and the Baltimore Bird Club. He has taught this course several times previously in the RI, as well as courses on various themes related to the Bible and religion.*

## 25. Memory Pictures/Writers' Workshop-Part 2 (Limit 18) **Hybrid**

Instructor: Elizabeth Fanto

Writers will write on self-selected topics in and out of class; respond to mini-lessons on fiction, non-fiction and poetry models; share their efforts in response groups; and revise works as they choose. Beginning writers are welcome.

*Elizabeth is a graduate of TSU, with a B.S. in Education and a Master's in English. She taught high school English and Creative Writing in BCPS, and sponsored Dulaney's literary/art magazine for six years. She has taught RI writing classes for 22 years. She was editor of Reflections magazine for 6 years.*

## 26. Pastel Drawing – Part 2

**Zoom**

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

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## 27. Spanish is Fun – Intermediate – Part 2

**Zoom**

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This will be a continuation of the class held in the fall. It will be held on Zoom and participation is highly encouraged. We will involve grammar and culture as we discuss some of the following topics: daily routines, what we did in the past and what we used to do in the past, sports, vacation activities, and shopping. Cultural and literary readings will also be discussed.

*Judy has been a high school Spanish teacher for over 40 years, 30 of them in the school system in Baltimore City. She has also taught on the college level and taught at RI for a number of years, ending about five years ago. She is also currently teaching Spanish via Zoom in her community (Leisure World in Silver Spring). She received her BA from American University and her MA from Coppin State University. She also studied for two summers in Spain.*



## 28. Qigong - A Mind/Body/Spirit Movement Class – Part 2 **Zoom**

Instructor: Pamela Tanton

We do standing and seated movements in a beautiful sequence that stimulates the energy flow in your body. The movements are gentle, and you can adapt them in ways that feel good to you. If you choose to sit during the entire class, that's fine! It's all about calming down with slow, deep breathing, moving your joints in a gentle way, and having some fun in the process. Qigong is an internal healing art, and it's part of Chinese medicine. All you need to do is follow the teacher. And breathe.

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## **11:00AM – 12:15PM**

### **29. Renaissance Singers – Part 2 (Limit 50)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Nancy Heinold

We are a four-part harmony choir. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to participate. Music will be provided and there are no auditions. Everyone is welcome! This is not a sing-along or a choir singing renaissance music. We perform a variety of genres.

*Nancy has been the conductor of the Renaissance Singers for many years. She has been an organist and choir director of an Episcopal Church for 35 years and been involved with music all of her life.*

### **30. Warriors, Queens and Intellectuals: Great Women Before 1400 (Limit 35)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Page Campbell

Step back in time and view history through the stories of 12 women who changed the world with their ideas, leadership and sacrifices. This is one of the Great Courses, presented via DVD, with two 30-minute lectures shown each class session, leaving time for discussion. The lecturer is Professor Joyce E. Salisbury of the Univ. of Wisc. - Green Bay.

Page Campbell is a long-time member who has presented a number of courses at Renaissance Institute.

## 31. Chair Yoga – Part 2 (Limit 40)

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Linda McGill

Staying seated means that even those who aren't flexible can safely do the exercises. This is an excellent way to loosen and stretch painful muscles, reduce stress, and improve circulation, while lowering blood pressure, protecting joints, and building strength and balance. We will also do some poses at the end of class standing, using the chair as a prop. We will focus on moving with the breath, and start and end class with a meditation, leaving you feeling peaceful and grounded.

*Linda McGill is a Roland Park native of 33 years. She is a certified 500 hr YTT Yoga Meditation Teacher.*

## 32. Great Decisions – Part 2 (Limit 24)

**Campus**

Instructor: Ken Pfeifer and Tim Casey

Discussion of Foreign Policy topics that have and will have a major impact on the US and the world. The course is prepared by foreign policy experts in each of the fields. Class will have a video (20 minutes) and class discussion. CLASS PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED.

**Material Fee: Briefing Book is required, cost is \$35 and available in RI Office**

*Tim Casey is a former corporate executive and international consultant. Tim has been a RI member for 4 years. Ken Pfeifer was a former international consultant and a member of RI for 13 years.*

## 33. Villains!

**Zoom**

Instructor: Carol Daddazio

What can we learn from Villains? Maybe by examining the lives of some really seriously flawed people we can learn about why they behaved as they did. Maybe we can find that they weren't as bad as we thought. A group of presenters will reveal the lives of some historical and fictional men as well as an animal. Hopefully, we can discuss and consider different views of some famous villains.

*Carol is a former teacher who likes to bring people together to learn and discuss ideas. She enjoys collaborating with other Renaissance members in the spirit of fun and growth.*

## 34. New Yorker Roundtable- Part 2

**Zoom**

Instructor: Brian Young

The New Yorker Roundtable is a lightly moderated discussion of articles in current issues of the magazine. Each week, 4-5 articles are selected for reading and discussion. The discussion includes the topic, writing style, and reader reaction.

**Material Fee: Participants need to acquire copies of *The New Yorker* by subscription, online, or from the library**

*Brian is retired from the aerospace industry where he held various positions, most prominently in Program Management. He has been reading The New Yorker and participating in discussion groups for 12 years.*

## 35. Baltimore History Narrative: 19th Century Industry, Jobs, People

**Zoom**

Instructor: Jack Burkert

A survey of how Baltimore grew, each week we discuss a different aspect of the lives and work of the people, the culture of the times and the industries they worked in, including shipbuilding, steel, garment making, food processing, the electrification of the city and transportation. From the beginning of each industry in the 19th century, we watch how each business and its workers evolved over time into the 20th century. Each of the six sessions will be presented as a Zoom program.

*Jack Burkert is an honors graduate of the University of Maryland with a degree in history and education. His 40+ year teaching career began with the Baltimore City Schools, continued with Penn State University and various private employers in Washington DC and New York City. He returned to his home town in 1995 to continue working as a private consultant until his "retirement" in 2009. A teacher never really stops teaching; thus, he developed the Baltimore Narratives history series programs.*

## 36. Spanish is Fun – Beginners - Part 2

**Zoom**

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This will be a continuation of the class held in the fall. It will be held on Zoom and participation is highly encouraged. We will involve grammar and culture as we discuss some of the following topics: time, activities, descriptions of people and objects, professions and trades, dates, body parts, etc.

**Textbook: *Spanish is Fun, Book 1***

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## **1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **37. Ink and Watercolor – Part 2**

**Zoom**

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## **1:15PM – 2:30PM**

### **38. Topics in Religion & Politics-Part 2 (Parts 1&2 Required) (Limit 35)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Fr. Steve Spahn, S.J.

While it's often said that religion and politics are two topics best avoided in polite conversation, this lecture and discussion course will survey a number of pressing political topics from the vantage of Christian faith. What light can Christian faith shed on these political controversies? And how is Christian faith necessarily political? These and other thorny questions will be considered in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

*A member of Loyola University's Jesuit Community, Fr. Spahn teaches theology and directs Ignatian retreats and programs. He is a native of Colorado, the youngest of ten children and a proud alumnus of several Jesuit schools (Georgetown, Fordham and Boston College).*

### **39. Nia Fitness Class – Part 2 (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Rebecca Donnelly

Nia is a fitness class that combines 9 different movement forms: 3 styles of dance, 3 styles of martial arts, and 3 styles of healing arts. We move all parts of our body while having so much fun listening to music and being in the moment. The technique can be adapted to suit all fitness levels. We don't take ourselves too seriously but we do get a lot of cardio with a low impact workout.

*Rebecca has been practicing different movement forms for many years and practicing Nia for close to 10 years. She holds a Black Belt in the Nia technique. And when she is not on the dance floor, she is practicing acupuncture at her studio, BlueGreen Acupuncture and Bodywork just around the corner on Cold Spring Lane.*

## 40. Poetry Workshop – Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Susan Marshall**

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*Susan Marshall earned both her B.A. and her Master's degree from NDMU. She has coordinated the Poetry Workshop for several years.*





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# **Thursday**

## **First 6 Week Classes**

**Feb 08 – March 14**

## **9:15AM – 10:30AM**

### **41. Strategic Litigation (Limit 30)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Paula M. Junghans

Strategic litigation, sometimes called impact litigation, involves identifying and pursuing a case with the goal of creating a broader change in society, rather than a result affecting only the parties to the case. The course will review selected examples of such litigation, beginning with *Brown v. Board of Education*, which held that “separate but equal” education for minority students was unconstitutional and thereby ended school segregation in the United States.

*Paula Junghans was a practicing attorney from 1976 through 2022. She has tried criminal and civil cases in the state and federal courts in Maryland and throughout the United States, was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, was regularly named as a "Top Lawyer" by Washingtonian Magazine, a "Superlawyer" and among the "Best Lawyers in America."*

### **42. The Foundations of Western Civilization, Cont'd–Part 1 (Limit 50)**

**Campus**

Instructor: John Meredith

This is a continuation of the Course from the Fall semester. You are welcome to sign up, even if you did not attend in the Fall. This Course will trace the development of Western Civilization using a series of 30-minute videos presented by Professor Francis F. X. Noble from the University of Notre Dame. We will show 2 videos per class and there will be opportunity for discussion. Part 1 will cover the period from the decline of the Roman Empire around 300 CE through the Medieval Period in Europe around 1300 CE. The course will continue as Part 2 in the second 6 weeks taking us to approximately 1600, as Western Civilization reached maturity.

*John Meredith is a retired Dentist and has been a member of the Renaissance Institute since 2015. He has had a lifelong interest in History and has led Courses in Civil War History, Music and Science.*



## 43. A History of Photography – Part 1 (Limit 30)

**Campus**

Instructor: David Lavine

This is an introduction to the pre-history, invention, and development of the major photography processes. We will discuss how photography responded to social needs and interacted with visual arts such as painting and printmaking. We will look at photography in various fields such as portraiture, art, journalism, and advertising. We should be able to come away with an understanding of how photographs are made, identify the major processes, and understand photography within historical and social contexts.

*David Lavine graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.A. and Honors and Distinction in History in 1967. After three years in the U.S. Navy he attended the Maryland Institute of Art (MICA). He received a Master of Fine Arts Degree in photography in 1978. He freelanced as an industrial, editorial, and public relations photographer for many years. He has shown his work in local galleries. He has been on the photography faculty of Anne Arundel Community College for 30 years.*

## 44. Open Studio for Prose Writers – Part 1 (Limit 15)

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, Sheila Scriggins

This is a prose writing course for serious writers who want in-depth feedback. Students are encouraged to bring their short stories, memoirs, or book chapters to class for reading and gentle critique. Class size is limited to 15. This is a hybrid course, presented on campus and Zoom simultaneously.

*Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, and Sheila Scriggins have been attending the class for years and have been published in RI's magazine, Reflections. They also offered this course in the 2023 Fall Semester.*

## 45. A Descent into Dante's Inferno – Part 1 (Limit 25)

**Zoom**

Instructor: Irena Rasin

Dante Alighieri, the father of the Italian language, wrote The Divine Comedy, a magnificent poem consisting of 14,233 hendecasyllabic verses in a form of his own invention, terza rima (aba, bcb, cdc,...). La Divina Commedia profoundly influenced not only the Italian language and literature, but the entire Western culture. The last grand work of the Middle Ages, it was also a harbinger of the Renaissance and Humanism. We will examine Dante's Inferno, the first canticle of The Divine Comedy, through the historical and literary point of view and enjoy reading select passages in Italian and English.

**Textbook: *Dante's Inferno, A New Translation in Terza Rima* by Robert M. Torrance, Xlibris, 2011 (paperback price on Amazon - \$23.99)**

*Irena Stanic Rasin is a language and literature scholar with a broad range of interests and accomplishments, including authoring and translating poetry and prose for adults and children alike. An experienced lifelong learning instructor, Irena teaches courses in the language and literature of Italy. She holds an M.A. in English and Italian Language and Literature. She is a doctoral candidate studying Croatian Philology in the Intercultural Context at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.*

## 46. Exploring the Cosmos – Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Brian Christy

This course will provide a brief overview of our understanding of the universe. Topics will include gravity, light, telescopes, stars, galaxies, and cosmology. Emphasis will be placed on the stories of how we reached our current understanding. This course will be offered via online lecture. Each week will include a lecture and some time for questions and discussion at the end. No outside material is necessary, though resources will be recommended for further study.

*Dr. Brian Christy is an Associate Professor of Physics at Notre Dame of Maryland University. He received his Ph.D. in particle astrophysics from the University of Maryland, College Park and previously worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Franklin and Marshall College in gravitational wave astronomy. His passions include God, his family, and the Chicago Cubs.*

## 47. Freedom of Movement (Somatics) – Part 1

**Zoom**

Instructor: Linda McGill

This class is for anyone who wants more freedom of movement. It works on strengthening the posture, core, and alignment, by using simple movements, breath and relaxation. Other benefits include relieving neuromuscular pain, regaining voluntary control of habitually tight muscles, improving coordination, balance, flexibility, while increasing self-awareness and mindfulness. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket.

*Linda McGill is a Roland Park resident for 32 years, and is a registered 500 hr YTT Yoga Teacher and has been teaching for 8 years, various types of yoga and meditation.*

## **11:00AM – 12:15PM**

### **48. The Bloomsbury Group (Limit 50)**

**Campus**

**Instructor:** Marianna Russell

“They lived in squares, painted in circles, and loved in triangles.” So said Dorothy Parker about the Bloomsbury Group—a collection of writers, artists and other cutting-edge intellectuals who met in the Bloomsbury district of London in the early 20th century to discuss their work and exchange ideas. This course will examine both their works and their complicated—often scandalous—relationships to one another. Lecture with PowerPoint and discussion.

*Marianna graduated from Notre Dame's Continuing Education program with a BA in English and went on to earn an MA in Liberal Studies. She has taught courses at RI on Virginia Woolf, Evelyn Waugh, and most recently several classes on Shakespeare.*

### **49. To Live in Hope Not Fear – Repeat of Course #7 (Limit 30)**

**Campus**

**Instructor:** Betty Loafmann

Since we live in an era of political unrest, we can benefit from reading Jon Meacham's book, *The Soul of America*. He provides a perspective on U.S. history that clarifies the reasons to hope for a better future rather than live in fear. This course will examine his analysis of our reaction to past crises.

**Textbook:** *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham

*Betty, has studied history all her life and taught courses on the Middle Ages, Jane Austen, American politics and the Bible as well as several others. She has been a member of RI for 12 years and served in a number of offices.*

## 50. Having Fun Creating Illustrated Journals – Part 1 (Parts 1 & 2 Required) (Limit 20)

**Campus**

Instructor: Joan Reid

Have you ever wanted to create an illustrated journal—a travel journal, nature journal, cookbook, commonplace book, or, perhaps, a journal of abstract paintings? In this workshop come explore how to put together a journal with sketches, watercolors, photographs, calligraphy and/or ephemera. We'll examine different approaches and techniques mainly working with pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor, but students are free to work in their preferred media. All artistic levels welcome.

**Material List:** List to be provided by the instructor.

*Joan Elisabeth Reid has produced illustrated journals for twenty years in response to travel, nature, daily life, poetry and, yes, food. She has taken watercolor courses through the Worcester Art Museum as well as watercolor workshops in Mexico, Brittany, and Provence. Before retiring, she worked in the museum field and was registrar at the Walters Art Museum 1995-2017.*

## 51. Cultivating Serenity in Tumultuous Times (Limit 30)

**Campus**

Instructor: David Hoovler

We are in the midst of rapid and often disconcerting change. This course draws on complementary ancient and contemporary perspectives to foster peace of mind in the midst of change. We will learn much from ancient philosophies (Buddhism, Stoicism, and Taoism) to help maintain inner calm in turbulent times. We will also gain valuable insights and techniques from contemporary psychology (Cognitive, Behavioral, Logotherapy) to help cope in challenging times.

*Dr. Hoovler is a lifelong student and educator who taught history and political science at Memphis University (1976-1982) and Notre Dame of Maryland University (1982-2021). He has also taught a variety of psychology courses during his career. In 2005, he earned a Master of Clinical Psychology from Loyola of Maryland University.*

## 52. Short Story Masterpieces – Part 1 (Limit 25)

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Elizabeth Fanto

This course offers a balance between well-known “classics” and works by newer contemporary voices from the United States and abroad. Due to the need to duplicate materials, the class is limited to allow for optimal informal discussions by members. This is a final set in the 16-part series.

**Material Fee: \$15 for printed copies of the stories**

*Elizabeth is a graduate of TSU, with a B.S. in Education and a Master’s in English. She taught high school English and Creative Writing in BCPS, and sponsored Dulaney’s literary/art magazine for six years. She has taught RI writing classes for 22 years. She was editor of Reflections magazine for 6 years.*

## 53. Views of the News – Part 1

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Hollis Jackson

During our discussions, members are invited to share opinions, concerns and critiques of current items in the news. Members are encouraged to read a wide range of sources to deepen our discussions. Polite discourse and broadening our knowledge is the idea.

*Hollis Jackson has been a RI member since 2010. She has taught various classes during that time.*

## 54. Tech Lab (Limit 15)

**Zoom**

Instructor: Julia Hammid

The course will hopefully be equal parts me offering information and class participants asking questions. I will offer a list of possible topics as well as addressing any specific questions. Topics may include: The Cloud, Searching the Internet, Email, Privacy & Security, etc. I will try to make the class interesting to a wide range of skill levels, neither boring those who know a lot nor leaving behind those know less. I will provide complementary resources according to the participants' interests.

*I have over 20 years experience coaching elders and beginners to become more comfortable and skilled in the use of technology. I am familiar with most commonly used devices including laptops, smartphones, tablets, TVs, Alexa, etc. I work with both PCs, Apple or Android devices. My focus is on people, not hardware, how we think, learn and remember. No one knows everything but I'm very good at finding things out when needed and admitting when I don't know!*

## 55. Ukulele Class – Part 1 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)

**Zoom**

Instructor: Ray Forton

Experience the simplicity, fun and joy of making music playing the ukulele. This is an ongoing class and beginners are welcome and encouraged. The course will include some history of the instrument, basic music theory, learning to read chord charts, strumming patterns, playing simple melodies and songs.

*Music should bring great joy, or at least a few laughs and a good time to both players and listeners. A 22-year career as a public-school music educator has taught me the importance of joy in learning music.*



## **1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **56. Six for Six Again! (Limit 30)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Elizabeth Ruppert and Whitney Jacobs

We've had such a good time discussing a different book each week that we're going to do it again. We will read and discuss six books in six weeks. All the books are 200 or fewer pages so finishing in a week isn't too difficult.

*Elizabeth and Whitney have offered this class several times in the past three years.*

### **57. Mixed Media – Part 1 (Limit 10)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Terri Eckard

Hands on with paint, paper, glue, brushes, string, gel plate, and many more items that can be turned into "art". No experience or talent necessary. Be prepared to get messy and have fun. Most materials will cost nothing or close to nothing. Gel plate is highly recommended, and will cost \$15 - \$30. Acrylic paint set and very cheap paper will also be needed.

**Material List: List to be provided by the instructor.**

*Terri is a life-long crafter who likes to try every new crafting technique that comes along.*

## 58. Having Fun at Mah Jongg – Part 1 (Limit 50)

**Campus**

Instructor: Liz Caplan

This is a workshop type of course. The history and development of the game will be presented. You will learn how to play, including strategies of the game. Yes, it is a game, which means win or lose you will have fun. Learning the rules of the game and strategies are not the only things you need to win. It is also a matter of having good luck. So, even if you lose it is still fun.

**Material List: You will need a National Mah Jongg League card to play. The cost of the larger card is \$15. I believe the cost of the smaller card is \$14, I recommend purchasing the larger card.**

*In my prior life I was a CPA, which in no way related to teaching Mah Jongg. I learned how to play at R.I. and fell in love with the game. We have a wonderful time playing and we socialize as well as play. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do.*

## **1:15PM – 2:30PM**

### **59. Ballet Basics – Part 1 (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Susan Sklar

This course is designed to use classical ballet technique for the purpose of improving strength, flexibility, coordination, posture, range of motion and balance. Tap into your creative spirit, cultivate musicality and experience the joy of movement.

*Susan Sklar received her ballet training at various local studios, Goucher College and the University of Maryland. She has performed in productions of Giselle, Swan Lake, La Bayadere and The Nutcracker. She has been dancing for all of her life and loves sharing her passion with a “new generation” of dancers.*

### **60. Integrative Spirituality & Yoga**

**Zoom**

Instructor: Patsy Kuo Eisenstein

The aim of this course is to include an embodied practice to integrate our spiritual knowledge in our day to day awareness for a more integrated living, living from your awake self.

This course is a zoom course that includes a very gentle yoga movement practice for a part of each session followed by interactive group discussion. The foundation of this course is based on Eastern esoteric traditions including Yoga, Vaidanta, and Buddhism.

*Patsy Kuo Eisenstein has been a yogi for thirty years. She is a certified yoga instructor (YTT500) with Kripalu Institute and a long-time meditator. She is a co-founder of an online community called A New and Ancient Story where she practices the Tao of leadership to co-steward the space with others.*

## 61. A History of Portraits/Landscapes/Holy Pictures–Part 1 **Zoom**

Instructor: Joseph Cassar

This course using the Zoom platform focuses on 3 continuing themes in Western Art, namely Portraits, Landscapes, and Holy Pictures. These themes will be explored through the ages with discussion of fine examples.

*Joseph Cassar, Ph.D., successful artist, art historian, author, curator and educator studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti, Pietro Vannucci, Perugia, Italy, the School of Art in Malta and at Charles Sturt University in NSW, Australia. He has authored several books and lectured at many educational institutions in Europe and the US, including the Smithsonian, JHU, CCBC, and RI. He designs online art courses for the NY Times Knowledge Network and the U of MD Global Campus.*

A large, light blue watermark of the Renaissance Institute logo is centered on the page. The logo is circular with a double-lined border. Inside the border, the words "RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE" are written in a serif font, following the curve of the top half. In the center of the logo is a large, stylized letter "R". At the bottom of the logo, the year "1989" is written in a serif font, flanked by two small dots.

**Thursday**

**Second 6 Week Classes**

**March 28 – May 02**

## **9:15AM – 10:30AM**

### **62. American Civil War (Limit 40)**

**Campus**

*Instructor: Danny Warrenfeltz*

We will be discussing various aspects of the Civil War by using a "Show and Tell" format. Some of the topics planned to be presented are the following: A soldier's life/items carried, weapons carried by soldiers, uniforms worn by soldiers, artillery used, the role of a sutler and his goods, flags carried, and the United States Sanitary Commission and its role during the war. Questions are encouraged by the students.

*Danny Warrenfeltz - 13 years as a Civil War Re-enactor/Living Historian*

*Paula Warrenfeltz - 10 years as a Civil War Living Historian.*

*Rob Greisbach - 25+ years as a Civil War Re-enactor/Living Historian*

*Buddy Mellor - 25+ years as a Civil War Re-enactor/Living Historian*

*Sandy Andrews - 25+ years as a Civil War Re-enactor/Living Historian*

### **63. The Foundations of Western Civilization, Cont'd-Part 2 (Limit 50)**

**Campus**

*Instructor: John Meredith*

This is a continuation of the Course from the first 6 weeks. You are welcome to sign up even if you do not attend the first session. This Course will trace the development of Western Civilization using a series of 30-minute videos presented by Professor Francis F. X. Noble from the University of Notre Dame. We will show 2 videos per class and there will be opportunity for discussion. This part will cover the time from Medieval Period in Europe around 1300 CE taking us to approximately 1600, as Western Civilization reached maturity.

*John Meredith is a retired Dentist and has been a member of the Renaissance Institute since 2015. He has had a lifelong interest in History and has led Courses in Civil War History, Music and Science.*

## 64. A History of Photography – Part 2 (Limit 30)

**Campus**

Instructor: David Lavine

This is an introduction to the pre-history, invention, and development of the major photography processes. We will discuss how photography responded to social needs and interacted with visual arts such as painting and printmaking. We will look at photography in various fields such as portraiture, art, journalism, and advertising. We should be able to come away with an understanding of how photographs are made, identify the major processes, and understand photography within historical and social contexts.

*David Lavine graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.A. and Honors and Distinction in History in 1967. After three years in the U.S. Navy he attended the Maryland Institute of Art (MICA). He received a Master of Fine Arts Degree in photography in 1978. He freelanced as an industrial, editorial, and public relations photographer for many years. He has shown his work in local galleries. He has been on the photography faculty of Anne Arundel Community College for 30 years.*

## 65. Open Studio for Prose Writers – Part 2 (Limit 15)

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, Sheila Scriggins

This is a prose writing course for serious writers who want in-depth feedback. Students are encouraged to bring their short stories, memoirs, or book chapters to class for reading and gentle critique. Class size is limited to 15. This is a hybrid course, presented on campus and Zoom simultaneously.

*Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, and Sheila Scriggins have been attending the class for years and have been published in RI's magazine, Reflections. They also offered this course in the 2023 Fall Semester.*



## 66. A Descent into Dante's Inferno – Part 2 (Limit 25)

**Zoom**

Instructor: Irena Rasin

Dante Alighieri, the father of the Italian language, wrote The Divine Comedy, a magnificent poem consisting of 14,233 hendecasyllabic verses in a form of his own invention, terza rima (aba, bcb, cdc,...). La Divina Commedia profoundly influenced not only the Italian language and literature, but the entire Western culture. The last grand work of the Middle Ages, it was also a harbinger of the Renaissance and Humanism. We will examine Dante's Inferno, the first canticle of The Divine Comedy, through the historical and literary point of view and enjoy reading select passages in Italian and English.

**Textbook: *Dante's Inferno, A New Translation in Terza Rima* by Robert M. Torrance, Xlibris, 2011 (paperback price on Amazon - \$23.99)**

*Irena Stanic Rasin is a language and literature scholar with a broad range of interests and accomplishments, including authoring and translating poetry and prose for adults and children alike. An experienced lifelong learning instructor, Irena teaches courses in the language and literature of Italy. She holds an M.A. in English and Italian Language and Literature. She is a doctoral candidate studying Croatian Philology in the Intercultural Context at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.*

## 67. Exploring the Cosmos – Part 2

**Zoom**

Instructor: Brian Christy

This course will provide a brief overview of our understanding of the universe. Topics will include gravity, light, telescopes, stars, galaxies, and cosmology. Emphasis will be placed on the stories of how we reached our current understanding. This course will be offered via online lecture. Each week will include a lecture and some time for questions and discussion at the end. No outside material is necessary, though resources will be recommended for further study.

*Dr. Brian Christy is an Associate Professor of Physics at Notre Dame of Maryland University. He received his Ph.D. in particle astrophysics from the University of Maryland, College Park and previously worked as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Franklin and Marshall College in gravitational wave astronomy. His passions include God, his family, and the Chicago Cubs.*

## 68. Freedom of Movement (Somatics) – Part 2

**Zoom**

Instructor: Linda McGill

This class is for anyone who wants more freedom of movement. It works on strengthening the posture, core, and alignment, by using simple movements, breath and relaxation. Other benefits include relieving neuromuscular pain, regaining voluntary control of habitually tight muscles, improving coordination, balance, flexibility, while increasing self-awareness and mindfulness. Bring a yoga mat and a blanket.

*Linda McGill is a Roland Park resident for 32years, and is a registered 500 hr YTT Yoga Teacher and has been teaching for 8 years, various types of yoga and meditation.*

## **11:00AM – 12:15PM**

### **69. Theodore Roosevelt and Family (Limit 50)**

**Campus**

*Instructor: Betty Loafmann, Christine Bentley*

Theodore was elected President after the death of McKinley. It was on the cusp of the Gilded Age when a few were wealthy and the majority was impoverished, when corruption was rampant, in the police and elsewhere. He was known as a troublemaker because of his boundless energy. This course will examine the influences that shaped Theodore and the changes to the office of the president that are his legacy.

*Betty has taught a variety of courses over the past 12 years. A recent proponent of Theodore Roosevelt's style of leadership, she enjoys enabling members to wrestle with what makes people act as they do. Christine Bentley, MSW has taught at The Renaissance Institute, CCBC and Osher. Ms. Bentley retired from the field of clinical social work and has always had an avid interest in history and the arts.*

### **70. Having Fun Creating Illustrated Journals – Part 2 (Parts 1 & 2 Required) (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

*Instructor: Joan Reid*

Have you ever wanted to create an illustrated journal—a travel journal, nature journal, cookbook, commonplace book, or, perhaps, a journal of abstract paintings? In this workshop come explore how to put together a journal with sketches, watercolors, photographs, calligraphy and/or ephemera. We'll examine different approaches and techniques mainly working with pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor, but students are free to work in their preferred media. All artistic levels welcome.

**Materials Lists: List to be provided by the instructor.**

*Joan Elisabeth Reid has produced illustrated journals for twenty years in response to travel, nature, daily life, poetry and, yes, food. She has taken watercolor courses through the Worcester Art Museum as well as watercolor workshops in Mexico, Brittany, and Provence. Before retiring, she worked in the museum field and was registrar at the Walters Art Museum 1995-2017.*

## 71. The History of Eugenics in America (Limit 30)

**Campus**

Instructor: Barbara Blumberg Ressin

Selective breeding, eugenics, has a history in this country that spans about 80 years and involves a Supreme Court decision in favor of using it and the Nuremberg Trials. The push to use sterilization on citizens, mostly women, started in the late 1800's and continued until the 1960's, when the last sterilization was performed. Those who were deemed unfit, mentally deficient, alcoholics, "loose women", children of mentally unfit people, etc. were subject to being sterilized, usually without their knowledge. The Nazis in Germany modeled their eugenics program after the American.

*Barbara is a graduate of Towson University with a B.S. in education, taught 3 years in the Baltimore City School System, 25 years at the Beth Tfiloh Day school in the secular division, adjunct faculty member of the Community College of Baltimore County at both the Owings Mills and Hunt Valley campuses, adjunct faculty member of Osher Life Long Learning Institute at Towson University, adjunct faculty member of the Renaissance Academy for the Florida Gulf State University, member of Oasis faculty in Montgomery.*

## 72. Short Story Masterpieces – Part 2 (Limit 25)

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Elizabeth Fanto

This course offers a balance between well-known “classics” and works by newer contemporary voices from the United States and abroad. Due to the need to duplicate materials, the class is limited to allow for optimal informal discussions by members. This is a final set in the 16-part series.

**Material Fee: \$15 for printed copies of the stories**

*Elizabeth is a graduate of TSU, with a B.S. in Education and a Master's in English. She taught high school English and Creative Writing in BCPS, and sponsored Dulaney's literary/art magazine for six years. She has taught RI writing classes for 22 years. She was editor of Reflections magazine for 6 years.*

## 73. Views of the News – Part 2

**Hybrid**

Instructor: Hollis Jackson

During our discussions, members are invited to share opinions, concerns and critiques of current items in the news. Members are encouraged to read a wide range of sources to deepen our discussions. Polite discourse and broadening our knowledge is the idea.

*Hollis Jackson has been a RI member since 2010. She has taught various classes during that time.*

## 74. TED Talks

**Zoom**

Instructor: Nancy St. Pierre

TED Talks are a collection of videos by some of the world's most inspired thinkers. We will watch several current videos and discuss each.

*Nancy St. Pierre is a retired IT Specialist who enjoys quilting, exploring spirituality and teaching at Renaissance.*

## 75. Ukulele Class – Part 2 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)

**Zoom**

Instructor: Ray Forton

Experience the simplicity, fun and joy of making music playing the ukulele. This is an ongoing class and beginners are welcome and encouraged. The course will include some history of the instrument, basic music theory, learning to read chord charts, strumming patterns, playing simple melodies and songs.

*Music should bring great joy, or at least a few laughs and a good time to both players and listeners. A 22-year career as a public-school music educator has taught me the importance of joy in learning music.*

## **1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **76. Movies in the Afternoon (Limit 35)**

**Campus**

*Instructor: Ted Walman, Vickie Lapicki*

In this 6-week course the instructors will exhibit selected films covering different genres. Films run the gamut from older classics to contemporary cinema.

Each class starts with an instructor providing a brief summary of the film including title, year made, plot summary, actors, actresses, and director. The film is then featured with closed captions if desired. After the film concludes, the instructors provide additional background information and little-known facts which leads to an open discussion.

*Ted Walman is a retired optometrist and has a great love of movies. He leads a social group which attends movies twice a month. Vickie Lapicki takes great pleasure in sharing the experience of film with the members of Renaissance.*

### **77. Mixed Media – Part 2 (Limit 10)**

**Campus**

*Instructor: Terri Eckard*

Hands on with paint, paper, glue, brushes, string, gel plate, and many more items that can be turned into "art". No experience or talent necessary. Be prepared to get messy and have fun. Most materials will cost nothing or close to nothing. Gel plate is highly recommended, and will cost \$15 - \$30. Acrylic paint set and very cheap paper will also be needed.

**Material List: List to be provided by the instructor.**

*Terri is a life-long crafter who likes to try every new crafting technique that comes along.*

## 78. Having Fun at Mah Jongg – Part 2 (Limit 50)

**Campus**

Instructor: Liz Caplan

This is a workshop type of course. The history and development of the game will be presented. You will learn how to play, including strategies of the game. Yes, it is a game, which means win or lose you will have fun. Learning the rules of the game and strategies are not the only things you need to win. It is also a matter of having good luck. So, even if you lose it is still fun.

**Material List: You will need a National Mah Jongg League card to play. The cost of the larger card is \$15. I believe the cost of the smaller card is \$14, I recommend purchasing the larger card.**

*In my prior life I was a CPA, which in no way related to teaching Mah Jongg. I learned how to play at R.I. and fell in love with the game. We have a wonderful time playing and we socialize as well as play. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I do.*



## **1:15PM – 2:30PM**

### **79. Ballet Basics – Part 2 (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Susan Sklar

This course is designed to use classical ballet technique for the purpose of improving strength, flexibility, coordination, posture, range of motion and balance. Tap into your creative spirit, cultivate musicality and experience the joy of movement.

*Susan Sklar received her ballet training at various local studios, Goucher College and the University of Maryland. She has performed in productions of Giselle, Swan Lake, La Bayadere and The Nutcracker. She has been dancing for all of her life and loves sharing her passion with a “new generation” of dancers.*

### **80. Stories from the Prairies and Plains (Limit 30)**

**Campus**

Instructor: Stephen Sutton

This course will feature stories from the turn of the Twentieth Century Midwest. We will read and discuss one or two stories each week. The stories will highlight the tension between rural life and a desire for culture. A sample of the writers will be Sherwood Anderson, Willa Cather, Stephen Crane, Hamlin Garland and Brett Harte. Small readings and big enjoyment.

*Steve taught high school English for 35 years in private schools, most recently St. Paul's School for Girls. He has been an avid reader throughout his life. He grew up on the plains of Eastern Colorado and has always loved a good story, especially those from a grandson (as he sadly has no granddaughters).*

## 81. A History of Portraits/Landscapes/Holy Pictures–Part 2 **Zoom**

Instructor: Joseph Cassar

This course using the Zoom platform focuses on 3 continuing themes in Western Art, namely Portraits, Landscapes, and Holy Pictures. These themes will be explored through the ages with discussion of fine examples.

*Joseph Cassar, Ph.D., successful artist, art historian, author, curator and educator studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti, Pietro Vannucci, Perugia, Italy, the School of Art in Malta and at Charles Sturt University in NSW, Australia. He has authored several books and lectured at many educational institutions in Europe and the US, including the Smithsonian, JHU, CCBC, and RI. He designs online art courses for the NY Times Knowledge Network and the U of MD Global Campus.*

## 82. Remember Who We Are – The Gita Sangha **Zoom**

Instructor: Patsy Kuo Eisenstein

This is an interactive introduction course on one of the most beloved ancient yogic texts, *The Bhagavad Gita, the song of God*. It is an epic story about the supreme being as Krishna guiding the protagonist Arjuna to live according to the divine will.

*Patsy Kuo Eisenstein has been a yogi for thirty years. She is a certified yoga instructor (YTT500) with Kripalu Institute and a long-time meditator. She is a co-founder of an online community called A New and Ancient Story where she practices the Tao of leadership to co-steward the space with others.*

## 83. Cracking Yokes: A Dozen Funny Women Who Changed the Face Of American Comedy

**Zoom**

Instructor: Marvin Pinkert

Co-taught with Amanda Joyce and Carol Daddazio, this course features the performances and lives of a dozen outstanding comedienues, from stage, in film, and over the airwaves, spanning the 20th century. The format will include both lectures offering biographic insights, and clips and photos that serve as primary sources for the performers. While I can assure you that Amanda, Carol, and I take our research seriously, we hope that the end result will be a lot of fun for all participants.

*This is the third RI course taught by Marvin Pinkert and it fulfills his passion for the history of American popular culture.*



***“Come for the classes, stay for the Friendships.”***

### *Photography/Videography Disclaimer*

*Attendance at or participation in on campus or Zoom classes or other Renaissance Institute events constitutes an agreement by the attendee to Renaissance Institute’s use and distribution (both now or in the future) of the attendee’s image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions, or audiotapes of such classes or events.*