



Renaissance Institute FALL 2025 Lifelong Learning



NOTRE DAME
OF MARYLAND
UNIVERSITY



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.

Keeping 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, many of which are designed and led primarily by the members themselves, supplemented by excellent outside instructors. 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, qigong, 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 included in your membership fee
- Member Sponsored Social Events During Semester Breaks
- Access the Notre Dame/Loyola library, 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 using your Notre Dame student email account
- Free parking on the NDMU campus
- Free download of Microsoft Office 365

COST: \$265 for the Fall Semester

DATES AND TIMES: Dates and times will be as stated in the catalog. Fall 2025 classes will host some offerings by remote delivery via Zoom and others in person on the Notre Dame of Maryland University Campus.

MORE INFORMATION: todea@ndm.edu, 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" around the top and "1989" at the bottom, with a large "RI" in the center.

Tuesday

First 6 Week Classes

Sept 09 – Oct 14

9:15AM – 10:30AM

01. King Lear: A Fresh Look - Part 1 (Limit 24)

Campus

Instructor: George Kessler

"Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst been wise" (King Lear I,5). Spoken by Lear's fool to the king, this is among the themes we will explore through 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 Shakespeare take us where it may.

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

02. America in the 21st Century

Campus

Instructor: Ed Berkowitz

Most surveys of modern American history concentrate on the 20th century and omit the 21st century, a quarter of which has already passed, completely. This six-week lecture and discussion course will examine the century in which we live. Topics might include the people who became president, 9/11, "black lives matter," the Covid epidemic and the rise of the Make America Great Again movement.

Ed Berkowitz, professor emeritus of history at George Washington University, has taught Renaissance courses on history, politics, and culture. He also lends his untrained voice to the Renaissance chorus.

03. Star-Spangled Banner Trail - War of 1812 Chesapeake Campaign (Limit 25)

Campus

Instructor: Robert Reyes

The Course will be an On-Campus Power Point Presentation. No pre-class materials will be required other than a Note Pad. The Course will cover the War of 1812 Chesapeake Campaign 1813-1814 culminating in American Victory at Baltimore September 13, 1814. After Napoleon was sent to the Island Elba, Italy following his First Defeat in Europe, British Regular Soldiers were sent to the Chesapeake Bay area. A British strategy to divert American Forces away from Attacks on Canada's Frontier.

Robert is a retired Civil Service Archivist for the U.S. Postal Service HQ Stamp Services Washington, D.C. He initiated the creation of a Star Spangled-Banner Trail. Robert was awarded the NPS Golden Arrowhead Award for Trail Report 4/19/2001. He has been affiliated with the National Historic Trail since 2009 and Founded North Point State Battlefield in 2006. Robert currently volunteers with Neighbor-Space Baltimore County on Bear Creek Heritage Trail Project (North Point Battlefield).

04. Advanced Intermediate Spanish - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. It will be held on zoom. Conversation is the major goal of the class, and we discuss past activities, current events, etc. in the target language. We also use the text for vocabulary and grammar. Participants will discuss shopping, superstitions and beliefs, the world of animals, professions, etc. Outside readings are included and culture is infused in the lessons.

Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 2 - Perfection Learning

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

05. Drawing with Oil Pastels -Part 1 (Parts 1 and 2 Required)

Zoom

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

Discover the vibrant world of oil pastels in this engaging course! Learn fundamental drawing techniques while exploring color theory through mixing and blending. You'll practice layering, scumbling, and other application methods to create stunning still lifes, animals, and landscapes. Oil pastels offer a rich, painterly experience without the mess of traditional paints. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this colorful course welcomes all levels of experience.

Alina Kurbiel, a signature artist with the Baltimore Watercolor Society, is originally from Silesia, Poland, where she earned her Master's degree. After a successful career in Maryland's tech industry, she shifted her focus to traditional art, specializing in watercolors, ink, and pencils. Known for her approachable and creative teaching style, she inspires artists of all levels.

06. Diversity Awareness for the Senior Community (Limit 20)

Zoom

Instructor: Dariana Glasco-Boyd

This course will foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity within the senior community. Through the exploration of various facets of diversity, interactive discussions, media analysis, and collaborative activities with the aims to create a safe and supportive space for open dialogue, personal reflection, and the sharing of experiences. Participants will learn to challenge stereotypes, promote empathy, and develop practical skills to build a inclusive and welcoming community.

Dariana is the Co-founder and Director of Learning and Development for M&D BEST, a consulting firm that specializes in education and training; she holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and sociology and a master's in education. Dariana has been in the field of education for over a decade; she is passionate about fostering career success, promoting belonging, and mental health awareness. Dariana enjoys spending time with family and connecting with others.

07. Qigong - Flowing Movements for Good Health - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Pamela Tanton

The class is held on Zoom, and these are some things people have said over the years: "This has really helped my balance, I feel so calm after I do this class, I'm so glad I signed up for this, these movements have helped my shoulders a lot, I can breathe more deeply when I do this practice." We do standing and seated movements, and it's always fine to sit the whole time if you choose.

Pamela has been teaching Qigong since 2004. She has studied extensively with Qigong Master Li Junfeng, of Beijing. Pamela loves her classes at Renaissance, where she has been teaching since spring semester 2018.

11:00AM – 12:15PM

08. Beer, Bread and Brothels - Baltimore - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: Jennifer Liles

The class is lecture/PowerPoint based - overall summary of the history of Baltimore, its neighborhoods and immigration as well as other industries, culminating in the Beer and Bread industry in Baltimore with the addition at the end of the course of the Brothel industry which utilized both the beer and bread industry.

Jennifer is a Public Historian who focuses on public history, looking at the way society has changed and where our traditions emerge and change. She often researches subjects and people who are not discussed and often not known, to bring forth a history of the area in which we live and share our local histories of the common people of our community.

09. The Amazing Art of Origami (Limit 15)

Campus

Instructor: Ivy Allgeier

A fun folding adventure through the history and practice of Origami.

Ivy Allgeier, a teacher for 34 years, was called the "Origami Mommy" by her students because of her love for the art and experience of paper folding. She loves all things fiber related including paper!

10. Renaissance Singers - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: Nancy Heinold

We are a four-part harmony choir. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to participate. Music is 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 music genres.

Nancy has been the conductor of the Renaissance Singers for 12 years. She has been an organist and choral director of an Episcopal Church for 46 years and has been involved with music all her life.

11. Learning About Nietzsche: Fact and Fiction

Campus

Instructor: Susan Baer

This in-person course provides an interesting introduction to the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. Students will read and discuss a novel, "When Nietzsche Wept", by Irvin Yalom that contains both facts and fiction about Nietzsche, and they will read selections from one of Nietzsche's seminal books, "Beyond Good and Evil". Reading selections from both the novel about Nietzsche and one of his works will aid in student understanding. The class will consist of limited lecture and more class discussion.

Textbook: "Beyond Good and Evil" by Friedrich Nietzsche and "When Nietzsche Wept" by Irvin Yalom (both available on Amazon as paperbacks)

Susan earned a Ph.D. in Government and Politics at University of Maryland, College Park. After completing a postdoc at Indiana University, Bloomington, she taught in Wisconsin and California where she earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Most recently Susan taught for the University of Kansas as an online lecturer. She has published many journal articles and book chapters.

12. Art Talks

Zoom

Instructor: Terry Weisser

This course focuses on back stories about art--things you won't learn from reading labels in museums. Illustrated lectures and discussion will be presented by specialists: Gary Vikan, former director of the Walters, Lynley Herbert, Walters Curator of Manuscripts, Greg Bailey, Walters objects conservator, Marden Nichols, Asso. Prof of Classics at Georgetown, and Nancy Zinn, Museum Consultant. Topics include Icons, "If Art Could Kill," Madeleine Albright's pin collection, Pompeii, and others.

Terry, former Director of Conservation and Technical Research at the Walters Art Museum, is presenting this course. Terry is a specialist in objects and archaeological conservation with degrees from Swarthmore College and University of London, Institute of Archaeology. She has specialized and published on ivory, enamel and metals and believes in studying cultural objects for what they tell us about people and the times in which they lived.

13. New Yorker Roundtable - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Brian Young

The New Yorker Roundtable is a lightly moderated discussion of articles appearing in recent issues of the magazine. Each week, 4-5 articles are assigned in advance for reading. Articles include investigations, personal profiles, politics, book reviews, short stories, poetry and more. In the class, each article is introduced with brief remarks and then participants are invited to comment about the topic, writing style, and personal reactions. Interactive discussion is encouraged.

Participants need to acquire the magazine by subscription or library.

Brian is retired from the aerospace industry where he was a program manager. He has been conducting the New Yorker Roundtable at RI for almost 8 years.

14. Intermediate Spanish - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This course is a continuation of Beginning Spanish. It will be conducted on zoom. Conversation is the major goal of the class, but we will follow the text in learning vocabulary and grammar. Participants will discuss food, location, going places, clothing and animals. Culture will be infused in the lessons.

Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 1 - Perfection Learning

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

15. Surviving in Instability

Zoom

Instructor: Janan Broadbent

A workshop on dealing with unprecedented turmoil in the world around us and the skills needed to maintain one's sense of stability. Discussions will focus on one's expectations of life at different points developmentally, and how to deal with unexpected changes. At which point do we acknowledge the limits of our own power, and the ways in which we can reconcile that limit with our own basic need of master over our lives?

Clinical psychologist with 40+ years in practice. Former Director of NDMU Counseling Center. Former Instructor of Psychology at NDMU, and various other colleges and universities in VMD. PhD from UCLA. Originally from Turkey, with cross-cultural experiences that underscore cultural changes.

16. Freedom of Movement - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Linda McGill

This class is a type of yoga class that creates a new freedom of movement, it works on strengthening the posture, core and helping the body feel stronger and better aligned 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. This class can be done in your bed.

Linda McGill is a Roland Park native of 34 years. She is a certified 500 hr ytt Yoga & Meditation Teacher.

17. The Life, Spirituality, Priesthood and Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins

Zoom

Instructor: David Jackson

We will explore the profound and beautiful lyric poetry of Hopkins, a Jesuit priest who struggled heroically to express his faithfulness as a parish priest while writing some of the most astonishing and inspiring poems in English. He was self-effacing and died virtually unknown but is now loved and revered the world over as a breathtakingly original poet who transcended the 19th century to loom over all modern literature. We will read the poems out loud and discuss in energizing discussions.

Textbook: Hopkins Poems & Prose, WH Gardner, \$17

David earned his PhD in English from Columbia University and has taught literature to college students in the US and Europe. He is a published scholar of 19th-century poetry and prose. He has a great passion for continuing education and mission-driven learning and has lectured at Summer Chautauqua assemblies, community groups, and churches in addition to his academic career as a tenured professor. He teaches with humor and energy and humor.

1:15PM – 2:30PM

18. Reader's Theatre (Limit 22)

Campus

Instructor: Natalie Pilcher

Reader's Theatre involves staged readings from theatrical scripts to create a workshop style performance. No memorization. Actors do interpretive reading of their lines. Classes begin with theatre exercises and improvisational games as a foundation for acting. Folklore, Modern One-Acts, and Mystery Theatre are being considered as a theme for course scripts. The number of class members will determine final script selection after sign-ups occur. **A course fee of \$10 will cover class materials cost (script printing and folders).**

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

19. Great Questions of Philosophy - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: Fr. Stephen Spahn

While philosophy is sometimes considered the domain of the uber-intellectual and the subject of hair-splitting and remote inquiry, it really represents a collective human effort to make sense of life. In this lecture and discussion course we will look at some of the great philosophers, the timeless questions they addressed and their pivotal insights. All of this will be plumbed for its utility and as a springboard for conversation about our present times.

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

Campus

Instructor: Rebecca Donnelly

Nia fitness class is a fusion of dance arts, martial arts, and healing arts. It is set to inspiring eclectic music and appropriate for all fitness levels. It is considered a low impact, high aerobic fitness. You will get a chance to move every part of your body, improve strength and balance and have a lot of fun doing it!

Rebecca is a Black Belt in the Nia technique and has been teaching for more than 10 years. She provides a welcoming and warm environment. When she is not dancing, Rebecca has an established healing center where she practices acupuncture.

21. The Best of Baltimore: A Cinematic Celebration - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Amanda Joyce

The first six weeks of this film class will focus on movies based on books, short stories, or screenplays by Baltimore authors, including Anne Tyler, Dashiell Hammett, Edgar Allan Poe, and Upton Sinclair. The second six weeks will examine movies featuring character actors born in Baltimore. This is a course that considers the evolution of film history, as well as the attributes of individual films and performances, and movies from all cinematic eras will be included.

Amanda Joyce has been presenting film classes at Renaissance Institute since 2020. She is especially interested in films from the silent era and the studio era.

22. Poetry Workshop - Part 1 (Limit 17)

Zoom

Instructor: Susan Marshall

In Poetry Workshop, we come together to share our writing and to encourage one another in our work with gentle critique and positive encouragement. I offer writing suggestions which may or may not be followed, according to the poet's inspiration.

Susan Marshall attended Notre Dame as an adult student, earning a BA in English, and studying poetry under Sr. Maura Eichner. She returned to earn her Master's Degree in Liberal Studies. Susan has led the Poetry Workshop for several years.

The background of the slide features a large, light blue circular logo for the Renaissance Institute. The logo contains the text "RENAISSANCE INSTITUTE" in a serif font, with a large "RI" in the center. Below the circle, the year "1989" is visible. Overlaid on this logo is the text "Thursday", "First 6 Week Classes", and "Sept 11 – Oct 16".

Thursday

First 6 Week Classes

Sept 11 – Oct 16

9:15AM – 10:30AM

23. Kaleidoscope

Campus

Instructor: Vivian Appel

This course brings together six speakers who will each present a talk about an area of expertise or special interest. Topics may include art, science, literature or travel, or any subject of interest to the presenter. Questions and discussions are encouraged.

Vivian is a retired lawyer and court administrator who moved from eastern Pennsylvania to Maryland five years ago. She plays golf and mahjong and is developing her skills as a sewist. Vivian is an avid traveler, in 2025 she spent time in Puerto Rico, Iceland, and France, and is planning her third trip to sub-Saharan Africa.

24. More Topics in Medicine - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: Bruce Rosenberg

In this continuation of last year's course, I will cover 12 new topics in medicine. Tentatively, that will include pneumonia, UTI, COPD/pulmonary fibrosis, HIV, kidney diseases, liver cirrhosis/hepatitis, etc.

I am a graduate of Univ. of Maryland Medical School, class of 1979, did my residency at Univ. of Md. Hospital 1979-1982. Served as Chief Resident in Medicine at GBMC between 1982-1983 and subsequently practiced general internal medicine for 45 years until my retirement in Sept. 2023.

25. The Big Bang, Life on Earth, and the Rise of Humanity - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: John Meredith

This course will explore the history of everything, from the beginning of the universe to modern day. This Course offers a unique view of human history in the context of the many histories that surround it. Using The Great Courses format, we will show two 30-minute videos per day from Professor David Christian from Marquette University. There are 48 lectures, so the course will run for the Fall and Spring semesters.

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.

26. Beyond the Snapshot - Part 1 (Limit 30)

Hybrid

Instructor: Carolyn Sutton

Did you ever wonder how some people's photographs are stunning and yours are just average? In this class we will focus on composition, point of view, framing, simplicity, depth of field and many other concepts that will help you MAKE, not just TAKE, photographs. Each week we will cover one concept then take that idea into the field for you to practice and send in for the class to consider together. This lecture/discussion class is appropriate for any kind of camera, including your phone.

Carolyn has a master's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design and taught art for 45 years. She was Director of Arts at The Park School for 20 years. She enjoys teaching drawing, painting, photography, graphic design and digital illustration.

27. Johns Hopkins: A Quaker in a Slave State

Zoom

Instructor: Sydney Van Morgan

In this course you will learn about the life and legacy of Johns Hopkins – his ancestors, his family, his Quaker faith, his business career, his philanthropy and what we know about why he decided to found the university and hospital. We will also explore his entanglements with slavery and with antislavery politics before and during the Civil War.

Sydney Van Morgan is Sr. Lecturer and the International Studies Program Director at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. She holds a PhD in government from Cornell University and has taught courses at SUNY-Oswego, Cornell, and JHU. Her most recent scholarly project explores the life history and Quaker roots of Johns Hopkins, the founder of Johns Hopkins University and Hospital.

28. Voices of Maryland

Zoom

Instructor: Kay Pulcinella

This six-week Zoom course will introduce a different speaker each week who will share insights on their area of expertise. The format will be lecture, most likely with accompanying Power Point or photos. Time for questions and comments will be included. You can look forward to learning about rare book collections, local authors, the arts, and beyond.

Kay Pulcinella has been a member of RI for over 10 years and is currently serving on the RI Council. This will be the fourth “Voices of Maryland” class Kay has coordinated, preceded by “A Bouquet of Garden Experts” class.

29. Open Studio for Prose Writers - Part 1 (Limit 18)

Hybrid

Instructors: Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, Sheila Scriggins

This is a prose writing course for writers who want to give and receive in depth feedback. Students are encouraged to bring their short stories, memoirs, or essays to class for reading and gentle critique. This is a safe space for writers to refine works in progress or try new things. Voluntary prompts and writing exercises will be offered. Class size is limited to 18. This is a hybrid course, presented on campus and via zoom.

Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, and Sheila Scriggins are long-time members of the Open Studio group. They have offered this course since 2023.

30. Exploring Aging with Presence: Cultivating Awareness in Daily Life (Limit 14)

Zoom

Instructors: Larry Fask and Andrea Naft

This course fosters a supportive group environment to explore practices that enhance presence and awareness. Through experiential exercises, we will deepen our connection to the body, emotions, and mind, discovering the subtler energies available to us. Weekly reflections and shared experiences will offer opportunities for growth, transformation, and greater understanding of ourselves and the aging process.

Larry Fask, an award-winning Sociology college instructor, brings decades of experience and a passion for teaching and learning. He has taught classes in Life Planning and Meditation at RI. Andrea Naft, a former teacher and administrator, has enjoyed teaching classes at RI in sketching, and in sharing practices for enriching self-awareness and self-knowledge.

Thursday Classes (9/11 - 10/16 \ 1st 6 Weeks)

11:00AM – 12:15PM

31. Acting Improvisation (Limit 18)

Campus

Instructor: Natalie Pilcher

This class will offer a fun, relaxed setting to explore your improvisational acting chops. Whether you've always wanted to see what this acting thing is all about or you're an "old hand" - you'll have fun discovering your creative imagination. Here is a no-pressure way to enjoy collaborating in theatre games such as: Group Monologue, Entrances, and The Bench Game. You will be introduced to the basics of comedic improv as we create a safe space to dive into unscripted drama.

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

32. A Short Course in Digital Photography (Limit 15)

Campus

Instructor: David Lavine

Photographic tools – both camera and software – have become so automated that the user no longer must pay attention to their underlying principles. We will be examining many of these through illustrated lectures and demonstrations. We will look at camera controls like aperture, shutter speed, sensor sensitivity and flash units. Students will be encouraged to make their own photographs, but that's not required. Access to a digital camera is helpful but not required.

Textbook: Digital Photography, Horenstein. About \$15.00

David graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in history. After three years in the US Navy, I attended the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore. I received a Master of Fine Arts degree in photography. I freelanced as an industrial and public relations photographer for 15 years. I have shown my artwork in local galleries. I have been on the photographic faculty at Anne Arundel Community College for 30 years.

33. Duke Ellington and Count Basie: American Jazz Royalty - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: Seth Kibel

On the surface, these two legends had much in common - they were both black pianists who led big bands that achieved fame and success during the Swing Era. However, on a deeper level, they were quite different - in personality, careers, and especially in the music their bands produced. Recordings, video excerpts, and live performances from the instructor himself will keep these lectures as lively and interesting as the music itself.

Seth Kibel is one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in Klezmer, Jazz, Swing, and more. Wowing audiences on clarinet, flute, and saxophone, Seth has made a name for himself in the Washington/Baltimore region, and beyond. He is the featured performer with The Kleztet, Bay Jazz Project, Music Pilgrim Trio, Daryl Davis Band, The Natty Beaux, and more.

34. Chaucer Tales (Limit 20)

Campus

Instructor: Stephen Sutton

These are delightful stories, and what better situation than to go on an imaginary pilgrimage. We will read and study Chaucer's Prologue to the Canterbury Tales and four individual tales for the six-week session. The tales include: The Pardoner's Tale, The Miller's Tale, The Franklin's Tale, and then the Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale. Most are humorous and all offer social satire into Chaucer's times.

Textbook: Penguin Publishing: The Canterbury Tales

Steve is a retired high school English teacher who loves a good story.

35. The History of Women's Fashions: From Underwear to Outerwear - Part 1

Campus

Instructor: Barbara Ressin

Fashion does not happen in a vacuum. Women's clothing attire has always depended on outside forces. Whether it's the dictates of the government, one's religion, society's mores, practicality, or other factors, women have had to adhere to the influence of exterior influences. For example, during WWI the government banned the manufacturing of corsets. It was due to the fact that the amount of steel used in making them for a year, could instead be used to make 2 battleships. Lecture/PowerPoint.

Graduated from Towson University with a BS in education. Taught 3 years in Baltimore City Public Schools, 25 years in private school in elementary and middle school, 13 years for CCBC at Hunt Valley campus, Owings Mills, campus, and Essex campus, 12 years at Towson University under Osher program.

36. 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 is the idea.

Hollis Jackson was a social worker for over 40 years. She has an MSW from University of Maryland and an MS.Ed in counseling from University of Miami.

37. 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 34 years. She is a certified 500 hr ytt Yoga & Meditation Teacher.

38. Science and Technology Lectures - Part 1

Zoom

Instructor: Robert Poor

Various members will give a class on a science or technology topics that they enjoy from prior employment, as a hobby, a recent book they read, or just want to research and teach as a short topic. In the past we have heard talks on chemistry, astronomy; physics, architecture, engineering, mathematics, weaving and fabric topics, lotteries, brewing, psychology, medicine, machines, car tires, and so forth.

Bob Poor has been a member of RI since 2006 and has taught many astronomy, chemistry, horticulture, and science/technology potpourri courses, managed literature courses, and done single lectures in textile, literature, and foreign policy courses. He has a BS in chemistry from the U of OK, a PhD from John Hopkins Univ, and a JD from the U of Maryland School of Law.

39. Memory Pictures/ Writers Workshop - Part 1 (Limit 16)

Zoom

Instructor: Peter Whedbee

Members will write on self-selected topics; non-fiction and poetry models; share their efforts in response groups; and revise works as they choose. Beginning writers are welcome.

Peter is a graduate of the University of Baltimore with a BS in Applied Information Technology. He has participated in the RI Prose, Poetry, and Memoir courses since the Fall of 2020.

Thursday Classes (9/11 - 10/16 \ 1st 6 Weeks)

1:00PM – 3:00PM

40. Movies in the Afternoon (Limit 25)

Campus

Instructors: Ted Walman and 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 a summary of the film including the year made, plot summary, actors and actresses, and director. The film is then featured with "closed captions". After the film concludes, the instructors will provide additional background and hold discussion.

Ted Walman is a retired optometrist and has a great love and knowledge of movies. Vickie Lapicki takes great pleasure in sharing the experience of film with the members of Renaissance.

1:15PM – 2:30PM

41. Going for Baroque: The Music and the Composers - Part 1 **Campus**

Instructor: Robert Weisser

This course will focus on the music of the Baroque period and its composers, from Monteverdi to Bach and Handel. Classes will be lecture, listening and discussion.

Robert dropped out of Yale to join a rock band in the '60s. His love of music led him to Peabody, earning a Bachelors and Masters in Music, focusing on composition. He headed the upper school music department at Bryn Mawr School for 6 years before attending Hopkins and becoming a computer programmer. He continues to study, write, and play music in retirement. Currently he is a student at UMBC where he is a novice member of a viola da gamba ensemble.

42. Ballet Basics - Part 1 (Limit 20) **Campus**

Instructor: Susan Sklar

This course is designed to use the technique of classical ballet 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 and the University of Maryland. She has performed in productions of Giselle, Swan Lake, La Bayadere and The Nutcracker. She has been dancing all her life and loves sharing her passion with a "new generation" of dancers.

43. Six Books in Six Weeks

Campus

Instructor: Whitney Jacobs

We will read and discuss six books during the first six weeks of the semester. Books will be short, most under 200 pages. Join us. The discussions are wonderful, the ideas insightful. Most of the books should be available locally or on Hoopla or Libby.

Whitney is a retired teacher and a grandmother who's read many books to many children. This class has been offered for several semesters.

44. Ukulele Class - Part 1 (Parts 1 and 2 Required)

Zoom

Instructor: Ray Forton

Experience the simplicity, joy and fun 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 melodies and songs.

Music making 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.

45. Quantum Mechanics in Biological Systems

Zoom

Instructor: Robert Poor

The course will cover modern physics in the 19th/20th century resulting in the concept of quantum mechanics and experimental work that proves the theory even though it was and still is a confusing mystery. The second half of the course will look at several biological systems that are explained by application of quantum mechanics principles. Lectures will be: 1. My telling you what I am teaching, 2. YouTube video series telling what it is, and 3. A second video series telling you what you were told.

Bob Poor has been a member of RI since 2006 and has taught many astronomy, chemistry, horticulture, and science/technology potpourri courses, managed literature courses, and done single lectures in textile, literature, and foreign policy courses. He has a BS in chemistry from the U of OK, a PhD from John Hopkins Univ, and a JD from the U of Maryland School of Law.

Tuesday

Second 6 Week Classes

Oct 21 – Dec 02

9:15AM – 10:30AM

**46. Christopher Hitchens' God Is Not Great:
How Religion Poisons Everything**

Campus

Instructor: Brendan Dowling

Using Christopher Hitchens' New York Times bestselling book, *God is not Great: How religion poisons Everything*, as a focal point, this course will seek to:

Articulate the insights of Hitchens regarding the absurdity and menace of belief in God and Religion. Critique His perceptions through analysis and class conversations.

Textbook: God is not Great. How religion poisons everything. Christopher Hitchens

Brendan has BA in philosophy (Maynooth, Ireland). MTS in religious studies (Washington Theological Union, Silver Spring, MD.) and ABD in religious studies (CUA Washington D.C.). He has taught religious studies for forty-four years, in total, on the High School level. Brendan just recently retired from Notre Dame Prep., after thirty-two years, where he taught Religious Studies.

47. What's "Intelligence" Got to Do with It

Campus

Instructor: Janet Currotto

These days, you can't interact with any media for more than 10 minutes without being offered "help" from an AI bot or app. And yet, most of these functions don't seem to really involve "intelligence" as we know it. This course will explore the origins, present, and future of "artificial intelligence," within a framework of actual human ("real"?) intelligence. Hopefully this will lead to some robust discussions of how we believe AI will (or won't) materially affect our lives.

Janet has an ancient B.S. in Mathematics from UMd and an accounting certificate from UBalt. Then, upon retirement from a long career in IT and finance, she earned an M.S. in Educational Studies at JHU, focusing on cognitive science, mathematics learning, and the use of IT in education. She has been an RI member for 9 years.

48. The Early Plantagenets: Kings of England from 1066 to 1216

Campus

Instructor: Carol Friedrich

This class will be mainly lecture with some video and film. We will have a guest lecturer, John Danz, who is a former member of RI and a descendant of the Plantagenets. We will learn about William the Conqueror, Henry I, Henry II, Richard the Lionhearted, King Stephen, and King John. We will touch on Robin Hood. Please join me for a study of a rousing time for England and the world.

Carol has been a Renaissance member for three years. She taught school in Glassboro, NJ for 40 years, mostly in the primary grades, before moving to Baltimore. Carol enjoys reading, singing, and trying new restaurants.

49. Advanced Intermediate Spanish - Part 2

Zoom

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. It will be held on zoom. Conversation is the major goal of the class, and we discuss past activities, current events, etc. in the target language. We also use the text for vocabulary and grammar. Participants will discuss shopping, superstitions and beliefs, the world of animals, professions, etc. Outside readings are included and culture is infused in the lessons.

Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 2 - Perfection Learning

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

50. Drawing with Oil Pastels - Part 2 (Parts 1 and 2 Required) **Zoom**

Instructor: Alina Kurbiel

Discover the vibrant world of oil pastels in this engaging course! Learn fundamental drawing techniques while exploring color theory through mixing and blending. You'll practice layering, scumbling, and other application methods to create stunning still lifes, animals, and landscapes. Oil pastels offer a rich, painterly experience without the mess of traditional paints. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this colorful course welcomes all levels of experience.

Alina Kurbiel, a signature artist with the Baltimore Watercolor Society, is originally from Silesia, Poland, where she earned her Master's degree. After a successful career in Maryland's tech industry, she shifted her focus to traditional art, specializing in watercolors, ink, and pencils. Known for her approachable and creative teaching style, she inspires artists of all levels.

51. Qigong: Flowering Movements for Better Health - Part 2 **Zoom**

Instructor: Pamela Tanton

The class is held on Zoom, and these are some things people have said over the years: "This has really helped my balance, I feel so calm after I do this class, I'm so glad I signed up for this, these movements have helped my shoulders a lot, I can breathe more deeply when I do this practice." We do standing and seated movements, and it's always fine to sit the whole time if you choose.

Pamela has been teaching Qigong since 2004. She has studied extensively with Qigong Master Li Junfeng, of Beijing. Pamela loves her classes at Renaissance, where she has been teaching since spring semester 2018.

11:00AM – 12:15PM

52. Who Deserves What? The Tyranny of Merit

Campus

Instructor: Betty Loafmann

We live in an age of winners and losers which has created hubris on the one hand, frustration on the other and extreme polarization. Consequently, it is time to re-examine our beliefs about merit and then look for solutions that may address our situation. In this course we will research current ideas and discuss our options.

Betty has studied political history for years and taught such courses as Jon Meacham's Search For The Soul of America, Life of Theodore Roosevelt, I'm Right/You're Wrong, They Are Not The Enemy, and Leadership in Turbulent Times. As much as Betty enjoys talking, she is even more fond of enthusiastic discussions.

53. Jewish Holidays: Their Traditions and Foods

Campus

Instructor: Laurie Rosenberg

A brief history of Jewish holidays - the different traditions surrounding them and typical foods served.

Long time RI member. Grew up in reform Jewish section of Baltimore neighborhood. Owner of many small businesses plus extensive consulting work. Degrees in accounting and info system management. Proud great grandmother.

54. Beer, Bread and Brothels - Baltimore - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Jennifer Liles

The class is lecture/PowerPoint based - overall summary of the history of Baltimore, its neighborhoods and immigration as well as other industries, culminating in the Beer and Bread industry in Baltimore with the addition at the end of the course of the Brothel industry which utilized both the beer and bread industry.

Jennifer is a Public Historian who focuses on public history, looking at the way society has changed and where our traditions emerge and change. She often researches subjects and people who are not discussed and often not known, to bring forth a history of the area in which we live and share our local histories of the common people of our community.

55. Renaissance Singers - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Nanacy Heinold

We are a four-part harmony choir. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to participate. Music is 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 music genres.

Nancy has been the conductor of the Renaissance Singers for 12 years. She has been an organist and choral director of an Episcopal Church for 46 years and has been involved with music all her life.

56. Interesting Birds in Interesting Places

Zoom

Instructor: Don Burggraf

Who doesn't like a travelogue? This course features several travelogues concentrating on birds. In the course we will travel with the instructor, first to scour the area around Baltimore for surprising birds, and then on to visit Texas, and Costa Rica, and visit close to the Arctic circle, and then to Africa. No expertise in birdwatching is required - only a curiosity and delight in seeing strange and beautiful birds. Format: lectures illustrated by PowerPoint presentations.

Don Burggraf is a retired Lutheran pastor who has enjoyed the hobby of birdwatching for almost 60 years. He has taught several courses of beginning birdwatching at the RI, as well as classes relating to the Bible and ancient middle Eastern documents.

57. The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway

Zoom

Instructor: Robert Jacobs

No one is more responsible for the development of the modern short story than Ernest Hemingway. Hemingway's innovative style revolutionized literature. His stripped-down, deceptively simple prose, combined with his Iceberg Theory of writing, created a strikingly new approach to literature. In this course we will read and discuss Hemingway's greatest short stories and will also learn about his friendships with Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, Sherwood Anderson, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Textbook: The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway

After graduating with a BA in English from Towson University, Robert Jacobs traveled to the United Kingdom where he attained an MA in Comparative Literature from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He is currently an adjunct instructor at the Community College of Baltimore County, Johns Hopkins Osher, and Towson Osher.

58. New Yorker Roundtable - Part 2

Zoom

Instructor: Brian Young

The New Yorker Roundtable is a lightly moderated discussion of articles appearing in recent issues of the magazine. Each week, 4-5 articles are assigned in advance for reading. Articles include investigations, personal profiles, politics, book reviews, short stories, poetry and more. In the class, each article is introduced with brief remarks and then participants are invited to comment about the topic, writing style, and personal reactions. Interactive discussion is encouraged.

Participants need to acquire the magazine by subscription or library.

Brian is retired from the aerospace industry where he was a program manager. He has been conducting the New Yorker Roundtable at RI for almost 8 years.

59. Intermediate Spanish - Part 2

Zoom

Instructor: Judy Frumkin

This course is a continuation of Beginning Spanish. It will be conducted on zoom. Conversation is the major goal of the class, but we will follow the text in learning vocabulary and grammar. Participants will discuss food, location, going places, clothing and animals. Culture will be infused in the lessons.

Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 1 - Perfection Learning

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

60. Freedom of Movement - Part 2

Zoom

Instructor: Linda McGill

This class is a type of yoga class that creates a new freedom of movement, it works on strengthening the posture, core and helping the body feel stronger and better aligned 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. This class can be done in your bed.

Linda McGill is a Roland Park native of 34 years. She is a certified 500 hr ytt Yoga & Meditation Teacher.

1:15PM – 2:30PM

61. Great Questions of Philosophy - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Fr. Stephen Spahn

While philosophy is sometimes considered the domain of the uber-intellectual and the subject of hair-splitting and remote inquiry, it really represents a collective human effort to make sense of life. In this lecture and discussion course we will look at some of the great philosophers, the timeless questions they addressed and their pivotal insights. All of this will be plumbed for its utility and as a springboard for conversation about our present times.

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).

62. Nia Fitness Class - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Rebecca Donnelly

Nia fitness class is a fusion of dance arts, martial arts, and healing arts. It is set to inspiring eclectic music and appropriate for all fitness levels. It is considered a low impact, high aerobic fitness. You will get a chance to move every part of your body, improve strength and balance and have a lot of fun doing it!

Rebecca is a Black Belt in the Nia technique and has been teaching for more than 10 years. She provides a welcoming and warm environment. When she is not dancing, Rebecca has an established healing center where she practices acupuncture.

63. Quantum Mechanics in Biological Systems (Repeat of Course #45)

Campus

Instructor: Robert Poor

The course will cover modern physics in the 19th/20th century resulting in the concept of quantum mechanics and experimental work that proves the theory even though it was and still is a confusing mystery. The second half of the course will look at several biological systems that are explained by application of quantum mechanics principles. Lectures will be 1. My telling you what I am teaching, 2. YouTube video series telling what it is, and 3. A second video series telling you what you were told.

Bob has been a member of RI since 2006 and has taught many astronomy, chemistry, horticulture, and science/technology potpourri courses, managed literature courses, and done single lectures in textile, literature, and foreign policy courses. He has a BS in chemistry from the U of OK, a PhD from John Hopkins Univ, and a JD from the U of Maryland School of Law.

64. Poetry Workshop - Part 2 (Limit 17)

Zoom

Instructor: Susan Marshall

In Poetry Workshop, we come together to share our writing and to encourage one another in our work with gentle critique and positive encouragement. I offer writing suggestions which may or may not be followed, according to the poet's inspiration.

Susan Marshall attended Notre Dame as an adult student, earning a BA in English, and studying poetry under Sr. Maura Eichner. She returned to earn her Master's Degree in Liberal Studies. Susan has led the Poetry Workshop for several years.

65. The Best of Baltimore: A Cinematic Celebration - Part 2

Zoom

Instructor: Amanda Joyce

The first six weeks of this film class will focus on movies based on books, short stories, or screenplays by Baltimore authors, including Anne Tyler, Dashiell Hammett, Edgar Allan Poe, and Upton Sinclair. The second six weeks will examine movies featuring character actors born in Baltimore. This is a course that considers the evolution of film history, as well as the attributes of individual films and performances, and movies from all cinematic eras will be included.

Amanda Joyce has been presenting film classes at Renaissance Institute since 2020. She is especially interested in films from the silent era and the studio era.

66. Walks in the Walters

Zoom

Instructor: Sheila Vidmar and Judy Weitzman

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. Judy Weitzman retired from a career in pharmacy and became a docent at the Walters in 2015. She enjoys sharing the treasures of the museum and delving into the "back stories" of the art and the artists.

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 circular arrangement around a large "RI" monogram. At the bottom of the circle, the year "1989" is displayed between two dots.

Thursday

Second 6 Week Classes

Oct 23 – Dec 04

9:15AM – 10:30AM

67. More Topics in Medicine - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Bruce Rosenberg

In this continuation of last year's course, I will cover 12 new topics in medicine. Tentatively, that will include pneumonia, UTI, COPD/pulmonary fibrosis, HIV, kidney diseases, liver cirrhosis/hepatitis, etc.

I am a graduate of Univ. of Maryland Medical School, class of 1979, did my residency at Univ. of Md. Hospital 1979-1982. Served as Chief Resident in Medicine at GBMC between 1982-1983 and subsequently practiced general internal medicine for 45 years until my retirement in Sept. 2023.

68. The Big Bang, Life on Earth and the Rise of Humanity - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: John Meredith

This course will explore the history of everything, from the beginning of the universe to modern day. This Course offers a unique view of human history in the context of the many histories that surround it. Using The Great Courses format, we will show two 30-minute videos per day from Professor David Christian from Marquette University. There are 48 lectures, so the course will run for the Fall and Spring semesters.

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.

69. "War of the Wits" Taming Shakespeare's Shrew

Campus

Instructor: Maggie Ward

Dive into Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, exploring its witty banter, quirky characters, and the complexities of love and gender roles through performance videos and conversation. Uncover how Shakespeare uses comedy to challenge societal norms and explore relationships. Whether you're a Shakespeare enthusiast or new to the Bard, the course invites fresh engagement with the play. Expect learning, laughter, and a deeper appreciation for how this classic continues to resonate with modern life.

Textbook: Bantam classics "The Taming of the Shrew"

Maggie Ward taught in private schools for 45 years. In addition to teaching English and theater, she produced and directed nearly a hundred school theater productions. She is delighted to bring that experience into this new chapter of life by teaching at Renaissance.

70. Sophocles/The Three Theban Plays

Campus

Instructor: Susan Marshall

In this class we will study "Antigone," "Oedipus the King," and "Oedipus at Colonus" using the Robert Fagles translation of "Sophocles: The Three Theban Plays."

Textbook: Sophocles: The Three Theban Plays, Robert Fagles Translation

Susan Marshall attended Notre Dame as an adult student, earning her BA in English and a graduate degree in Liberal Studies. Oedipus appeared in several classes, whether of literature to philosophy, so elemental a figure is he to Western thought.

71. Beyond the Snapshot - Part 2 (Limit 30)

Hybrid

Instructor: Carolyn Sutton

Did you ever wonder how some people's photographs are stunning and yours are just average? In this class we will focus on composition, point of view, framing, simplicity, depth of field and many other concepts that will help you MAKE, not just TAKE, photographs. Each week we will cover one concept then take that idea into the field for you to practice and send in for the class to consider together. This lecture/discussion class is appropriate for any kind of camera, including your phone.

Carolyn has a master's degree from the Rhode Island School of Design and taught art for 45 years. She was Director of Arts at The Park School for 20 years. She enjoys teaching drawing, painting, photography, graphic design and digital illustration.

72. Open Studio for Prose Writers - Part 2 (Limit 18)

Hybrid

Instructors: Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, Sheila Scriggins

This is a prose writing course for writers who want to give and receive in depth feedback. Students are encouraged to bring their short stories, memoirs, or essays to class for reading and gentle critique. This is a safe space for writers to refine works in progress or try new things. Voluntary prompts and writing exercises will be offered. Class size is limited to 18. This is a hybrid course, presented on campus and via zoom.

Amanda Joyce, Saul Lindenbaum, and Sheila Scriggins are long-time members of the Open Studio group. They have offered this course since 2023.

73. Domestic Chinese Architecture

Zoom

Instructor: Eugene Geinzer

Architecture plausibly emanates from the SIHEYUAN (4-sided enclosed courtyard) house. Close cognates to the HAN Siheyuan appear in the courtyard houses of the BAI and the 2-story NAXI house. More exotic types are found among the non-HAN: the donut-shaped community houses of the HAKKA; the up-on-stilt houses of the DAI; the adobe houses of the HANI and UYGHUR peoples; and the mammoth trapezoidal TIBETAN houses. Having dwelt in each of these, the lecturer provides vivid insights into these houses.

While Eugene was trained as a sculptor, he realized that sculpture is miniature architecture and architecture is mammoth sculpture. The transition from cabinet maker to architect was seamless. He studied at Pratt Institute and Illinois Institute of Technology where he earned his graduate degrees. He taught and practiced these arts at Georgetown University, Loyola University Chicago, Beijing Center for Chinese Studies and Saint Joseph University.

11:00AM – 12:15PM

74. Germans, Maryland and America

Campus

Instructor: Nicholas Fessenden and Bernie Penner

The format will be lecture and discussion, with PowerPoint slides to illustrate the material. Bernie Penner will join us to team teach the course and focus on Germans in Baltimore. The backdrop will be events in Germany, some of which prompted emigration to America. The course will start with German immigration to colonial America, followed by the Great Wave starting in 1830 and lasting until 1914. Afterwards, the two World Wars induced German Americans to assimilate into American society.

Nicholas Fessenden serves with the Baltimore Immigration Museum and has taught courses on immigration history with the Renaissance Institute, the Osher Institute (Johns Hopkins and Towson University), and the Community College Baltimore County. Bernie Penner is a retired attorney who has written a supplemental history of Zion Church. He is active in many German and Baltimore historic organizations.

75. Picturing the American Dream

Campus

Instructor: David Lavine

In 1931, writing during the Great Depression, the historian James Truslow Adams, coined the phrase, “American Dream”, referring to the main themes of American history. We will view and discuss photographs, prints, and painting in the areas of American landscape, documentary, advertising, and celebrity culture. We will look at two sides of the Dream – including the quest for upward mobility (personal fulfillment, prosperity and fame), alongside the dream of equality of opportunity.

I graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor’s degree in history. After service in the US Navy, I attended the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore. I received a Master of Fine Arts degree in photography. I freelanced as an industrial, and public relations photographer for 15 years. I have shown my artwork in local galleries and have been on the photographic faculty at Anne Arundel Community College for 30 years.

76. Duke Ellington and Count Basie: American Jazz Royalty - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Seth Kibel

On the surface, these two legends had much in common - they were both black pianists who led big bands that achieved fame and success during the Swing Era. However, on a deeper level, they were quite different - in personality, careers, and especially in the music their bands produced. Recordings, video excerpts, and live performances from the instructor himself will keep these lectures as lively and interesting as the music itself.

Seth Kibel is one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in Klezmer, Jazz, Swing, and more. Wowing audiences on clarinet, flute, and saxophone, Seth has made a name for himself in the Washington/Baltimore region, and beyond. He is the featured performer with The Kleztet, Bay Jazz Project, Music Pilgrim Trio, Daryl Davis Band, The Natty Beaux, and more.

77. A Matter of Taste

Campus

Instructor: Betsy Cumming

I will be looking at foods known for their distinct tastes. For example, vanilla and chocolate, salt and pepper, sugar and spice and various herbs. These flavors contribute to the cultural identity of world cuisines. I will look at the social, economic and medicinal uses of these foods.

Betsy has taught multiple courses on food at RI in the 19 years that I have been a member. Most recently I taught Wheat, Rice and Corn in 2024.

78. The History of Women's Fashions; From Underwear to Outerwear - Part 2

Campus

Instructor: Barbara Ressin

Fashion does not happen in a vacuum. Women's clothing attire has always depended on outside forces. Whether it's the dictates of the government, one's religion, society's mores, practicality, or other factors, women have had to adhere to the influence of exterior influences. For example, during WWI the government banned the manufacturing of corsets. It was due to the fact that the amount of steel used in making them for a year, could instead be used to make 2 battleships. Lecture/PowerPoint.

Graduated from Towson University with a BS in education. Taught 3 years in Baltimore City Public Schools, 25 years in private school in elementary and middle school, 13 years for CCBC at Hunt Valley campus, Owings Mills, campus, and Essex campus, 12 years at Towson University under Osher program.

79. 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 is the idea.

Hollis Jackson was a social worker for over 40 years. She has an MSW from University of Maryland and an MS.Ed in counseling from University of Miami.

80. 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 34 years. She is a certified 500 hr ytt Yoga & Meditation Teacher.

81. Memory Pictures - Part 2 (Limit 16)

Zoom

Instructor: Peter Whedbee

Members will write on self-selected topics; non-fiction and poetry models; share their efforts in response groups; and revise works as they choose. Beginning writers are welcome.

Peter is a graduate of the University of Baltimore with a BS in Applied Information Technology. He has participated in the RI Prose, Poetry, and Memoir courses since the Fall of 2020.

1:15 – 2:30PM

82. Going for Baroque: The Music and The Composers - Part 2 **Campus**

Instructor: Robert Weisser

This course will focus on the music of the Baroque period and its composers, from Monteverdi to Bach and Handel. Classes will be lecture, listening and discussion.

Robert dropped out of Yale to join a rock band in the '60s. His love of music led him to Peabody, earning a Bachelors and Masters in Music, focusing on composition. He headed the upper school music department at Bryn Mawr School for 6 years before attending Hopkins and becoming a computer programmer. He continues to study, write, and play music in retirement. Currently he is a student at UMBC where he is a novice member of a viola da gamba ensemble.

83. Ballet Basics - Part 2 (Limit 20)

Campus

Instructor: Susan Sklar

This course is designed to use the technique of classical ballet 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 and the University of Maryland. She has performed in productions of Giselle, Swan Lake, La Bayadere and The Nutcracker. She has been dancing all her life and loves sharing her passion with a "new generation" of dancers.

84. Gatsby at One Hundred

Campus

Instructor: John Russell

The Great Gatsby celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Maureen Corrigan describes it as, “The Great American Novel we all think we've read, but really haven't.” It is certainly not a novel that should be read only once while in high school. My son dismissed it then and forty years of argument hasn't gotten him to change his mind. Let's read it together and you can decide for yourself how good it really is.

Textbook: “The Great Gatsby” (any edition)

While not an English major in college, John is an avid reader. In middle age he believed that Fitzgerald's “Tender Is the Night” a better novel. However, on recently rereading “The Great Gatsby”, he is not so sure.

85. Ukulele - Part 2 (Parts 1 and 2 Required)

Zoom

Instructor: Ray Forton

Experience the simplicity, joy and fun 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 melodies and songs.

Music making 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 leaning music.

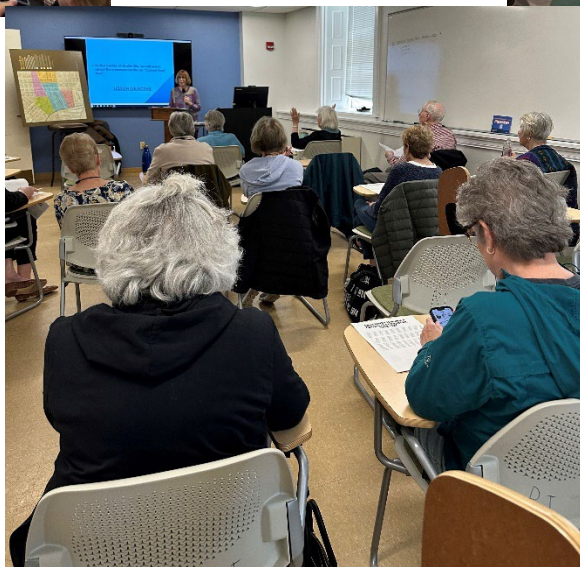
86. Science and Technology Lectures - Part 2

Zoom

Instructor: Robert Poor

Various members will give a class on a science or technology topics that they enjoy from prior employment, as a hobby, a recent book they read, or just want to research and teach as a short topic. In the past we have heard talks on chemistry, astronomy; physics, architecture, engineering, mathematics, weaving and fabric topics, lotteries, brewing, psychology, medicine, machines, car tires, and so forth.

Bob Poor has been a member of RI since 2006 and has taught many astronomy, chemistry, horticulture, and science/technology potpourri courses, managed literature courses, and done single lectures in textile, literature, and foreign policy courses. He has a BS in chemistry from the U of OK, a PhD from John Hopkins Univ, and a JD from the U of Maryland School of Law.



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

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