



# Renaissance Institute Spring 2026 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.

**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, 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 for 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 Spring Semester

**DATES AND TIMES:** Dates and times will be as stated in the catalog. SPRING 2026 classes will host some offerings by remote delivery via Zoom and others in person on the Notre Dame of Maryland University Campus.

**MORE INFORMATION:** [jheinlein@ndm.edu](mailto:jheinlein@ndm.edu)

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**Tuesday**

**First 6 Week Classes**

**Feb 3 – Mar 10**

**9:15AM – 10:30AM**

**01. King Lear: A Fresh Look – Part II (Limit 25)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: George Kessler**

Only King Lear and Hamlet warrant two six-week sessions for me. This second part of our Lear year follows the former king's inevitable doom, but also his path to self-knowledge as the plot lines resolve, and order is restored to Britain. We will explore through a variety of formats: reading aloud, discussion, film clips, and a skosh of lecture. No advanced reading or prior knowledge of the play is required, and attendance in Part I is not needed.

*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. Revisiting the Sixties**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Ed Berkowitz**

Everyone remembers the sixties in their own personal way. This class will attempt to place the decade in historical perspective. Possible topics include JFK as president and martyr, the ways that the Beatles changed American popular music, the efforts to win the Vietnam War, the fall and rise of Richard Nixon, and James Bond and other cultural milestones. No outside reading or special preparation required.

*Ed Berkowitz lives in Baltimore but taught history at George Washington University for many years. More recently he has given classes on political and cultural history at the Renaissance Institute.*

### 03. Understanding the World of Investments – For the Novice (Limit 25)

**Campus**

**Instructor: Beth Volk**

Managing your money can be overwhelming. This class is a primer that provides the ‘back-story’ on the world of investments. It covers the basics of bonds, stocks, mutual funds, and working with investment professionals. While at times the subject is a bit technical, it is practical information delivered in plain English. The goal is to make you feel more conversant and confident when dealing with your finances and financial advisors. This in-person class is a mix of lectures and discussion.

*Beth Volk used her BA Business Administration, Gettysburg College and MBA, University of Virginia in a 20-year career in the investment business as a fixed-income corporate bond analyst and strategist advising institutional clients and mutual fund advisors. After changing careers, she participated in a local investment club guiding its overall investment strategy and researching potential stocks for purchase.*

### 04. Spanish Is Fun - Advanced Intermediate - Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Judy Frumkin**

This course will be taught on Zoom. Emphasis is placed on conversation and participation in the class. We will discuss superstition, the wonders of the animal kingdom, jobs and professions and personalities. We will also discuss the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and readings, including literary works. **Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 2 - Perfection Learning**

*Judy Frumkin taught Spanish in the Baltimore City Public School system for 30 years at Dunbar, City College and Western high Schools. Previously, she had taught Spanish in schools in New York. She has also taught at Sojourner-Douglass and Baltimore City Community College. She holds certificates from the Universidad Menendez y Pelayo in Santander, Spain.*

## 05. Charcoal Portrait Drawing -Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Alina Kurbiel**

Join me for a creative journey into the world of charcoal drawing! We'll start with simple still-life studies to get comfortable with various charcoal techniques. Step by step, you'll learn to capture light and shadow to create a sense of depth and form. As we progress, we'll move on to animal and human portraits, exploring proportion and shading. This class is ideal for beginners and those wishing to refine their portrait skills.

*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 warm, encouraging teaching style and creative approach, Alina inspires artists of all levels to explore and grow in their artistic journey.*

## 06. A Potpourri of Baltimore History

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Jack Burkert**

Introducing an assortment of stories of Baltimore in the 20th Century. This Online program series by Jack Burkert, author of Twentieth Century Baltimore, offers insights into many topics that made Baltimore, Baltimore. The story of the calamity of its 1904 Great Fire, the impact industry at the Sparrows Point steel mill made, and how it became a vital hub as a City in Motion. In addition, it recounts two critical decades: the 1960s and the 1970s, as well as the life of great literary leader, H.L. Mencken.

*Jack Burkert, a Baltimore native who has developed a series of Baltimore history programs. A 1969 honors graduate of the University of Maryland, Jack has taught multiple subject areas in a variety of educational and business settings, most recently in “retirement employment” at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Jack has presented many of his thirty-plus Baltimore-centric topics regionally for the past fifteen years.*

## 07. Qigong – Movements for Health and Vitality! - Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Pamela Tanton**

Qigong is a gentle and flowing healing art that's good for so many things, including stress relief, balance, and flexibility. It can relieve anxiety and enhance one's overall sense of well-being, and it opens up your body in a way that feels great. We do standing and seated movements in class, and the movements are learned in a sequence. Anyone who'd rather sit the entire time may do so. For the spring semester, we'll focus on a sequence called Return to Spring. This class meets on Zoom.

*Pamela has been teaching Qigong since 2004. She began studying with her Chinese qigong master in 2002 and has taken countless teacher trainings, workshops, and seminars with him over the years. She has a light-hearted style and truly loves her Renaissance classes, where she's been teaching since spring 2018. She is a 1979 graduate of Goucher College.*

## **11:00AM – 12:15PM**

### **08. Immigration Today (Limit 25)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Linda Rabben**

This course will survey recent developments in US and other countries' immigration policies and enforcement actions, as well as grassroots and non-governmental efforts to protect migrants, through presentations by the instructor and visiting speakers from nonprofit organizations and government agencies. **Textbook: Sanctuary and Asylum (~\$30.00).**

*Linda Rabben is an author, anthropologist and human rights activist. She has published 12 nonfiction books, including "Sanctuary and Asylum: A Social and Political History," "Fierce Legion of Friends: A History of Human Rights Campaigns and Campaigners," and "Through a Glass Darkly: The Social History of Stained Glass in Baltimore." This is her fourth RI course.*

### **09. Exploring Autism (Limit 20)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Theo Pinette**

What is autism? So much is misunderstood by the public. Handouts will generate small group discussions such as autistic types and stereotypes, answers to the most frequently asked questions and what recent research reveals. You may take on assignments to view a TV show to discuss. You will receive handouts with insights into the lived experience of people with autism and those who found out later in life that they are on the Spectrum. Was it worth getting a diagnosis?

*Theo Pinette earned her BA at Mt. Holyoke College and an MS in Applied Behavior Science at Johns Hopkins University. Her career included 40 years as the CEO of nonprofit organizations serving low income and homeless people as well as people with disabilities. She enjoyed 12 years at VME & V-LINC which ran a summer camp for kids with and without disabilities. There she learned to love all neurotypes. Thus began curiosity and her own research into autism.*

## 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. Yoknapatawpha County: The Literature of Faulkner – Part 1 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Robert Jacobs**

"The past is never dead," wrote Faulkner, "it's not even past." Yoknapatawpha County was the grand fictional setting that allowed Faulkner to explore how the past endures and continually shapes our lives. In this class we will interrogate the way Faulkner used an experimental modernist prose style to establish a profound understanding of the connections between time, memory, and place and the impact they have on the development of both personal and national consciousness. **Will need a copy of the novel, The Sound and the Fury.**

*After graduating with a B.A. in English from Towson University, Robert Jacobs traveled to the U.K. 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, Towson Osher, and the Notre Dame Renaissance Institute.*

## 12. Creative Writing Techniques: Examples and Exercises - Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Barbara Diehl**

In this Zoom course, we will discuss creative writing techniques and how they are used in contemporary writing—with the goal of freeing our imaginations and generating raw material to polish for publication later. Topics include brainstorming techniques and a range of literary devices. We will look at poems and excerpts from fiction and creative nonfiction in literary journals and write in response to prompts, with time at the end of each class for comments, questions, and sharing.

*Barbara Westwood Diehl is the senior editor of The Baltimore Review, a literary journal of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction founded in 1996. She has a master's in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University, and her own work has been published in a variety of literary journals. <https://www.barbarawestwooddiehl.com/>*

## 13. New Yorker Roundtable - Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Brian Young**

The Roundtable is a discussion of articles in the current issue of The New Yorker magazine. Each week, 4-5 articles are assigned in advance to be read. Articles include politics, advances in science, international relations, book reviews, short stories, poetry and more. In the class, each article is presented with a brief overview followed by discussion by class members. Discussion includes the effect the article has on the reader, comments about writing style, and observations on the topic. **Participants need to acquire The New Yorker magazine by subscription or library.**

*Brian is a retired program manager in the aerospace industry. He has been involved in discussions of The New Yorker magazine for 12 years, including 7 years leading the Roundtable class at RI.*

## 14. Spanish Is Fun - Intermediate - Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Judy Frumkin**

This course will be taught on Zoom. Emphasis is placed on conversation and participation in the class. We will discuss food, location, doing fun activities, clothing and the animal kingdom. We will also discuss the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and readings, including literary works. **Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 1 - Perfection Learning**

*Judy Frumkin taught Spanish in the Baltimore City Public School system for 30 years at Dunbar, City College and Western high Schools. Previously, she had taught Spanish in schools in New York. She has also taught at Sojourner-Douglass and Baltimore City Community College. She holds certificates from the Universidad Menendez y Pelayo in Santander, Spain.*

## 15. Sign & Shine: American Sign Language (ASL) for Everyday Conversation – Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Renuka Purimetla**

Discover the joy of communication through American Sign Language—no books required! This interactive workshop and discussion-based course introduces everyday signs and expressions through conversation, short films, and hands-on practice. Each session builds confidence and connection, while keeping learning light, social, and fun. Come laugh, learn, and “talk with your hands” in a warm, supportive community setting.

*Renuka Purimetla is a Sign Language Interpreter and educator who loves helping others discover the joy of communication through ASL. After teaching this wonderful Renaissance group before, she’s thrilled to return! Renuka looks forward to reconnecting with familiar faces, meeting new friends, and creating a fun, uplifting space to learn, laugh, and sign together.*

## 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.*

## **1:15PM – 2:30PM**

### **17. Great Stories of the Old Testament: A Present-day Reflection Campus - Part 1**

**Instructor: Fr. Stephen Spahn, S. J.**

This lecture and discussion course will examine some of the great stories of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) -- paying special attention to what they reveal about who God is and who we are. We will also endeavor to apply the themes and poignant questions they raise to our own present circumstances in America and the world today.

*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).*

### **18. Creating Character Driven Fiction – Part 1 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Barbara Bachur**

The course will consist of fiction writing in the Character Driven format - an exciting and challenging way to create rich and satisfying work. The class will consist of lectures, discussions and workshop. By the end of this 12-week course, after having created Flash Fiction and Short Story, each student will have completed a novella of approximately 17,000 words.

*Barbara Bachur has taught Writing and Literature in a wide variety of settings, ranging from workshop to classroom, to a special 'needs population' in an institution. Her background includes creative writing in all formats, business writing, and ghost writing a chapter of a professional book. She has a degree in English, both writing and literature, from Goucher College. She is currently working on her memoir.*

## 19. Acting Improvisation – Part 1 (Limit 20)

**Campus**

**Instructor: Natalie Pilcher**

This class will offer a fun, relaxed setting in which to explore improvisational acting. Whether you've always wanted to see what this acting thing is about or you're a seasoned "pro" – you'll have fun exploring your creative imagination. This is a no-pressure way to enjoy collaborating with the group doing theatre games such as: Freeze, One Minute Professor, and Best Friend's Advice. We will create a safe space to dive into unscripted short scenes.

*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.*

## 20. Kaleidoscope – A Collection of Six Talks

**Campus**

**Instructor: Vivian Appel**

This course brings together six speakers who will each present a talk about an area of expertise or special interest. Past topics have included art, architecture, medicine, science, social movements, travel and family history. Renaissance members are urged to be speakers.

*Vivian moved from eastern Pennsylvania six years ago after retiring as a lawyer and court administrator. She plays golf, mahjong and sews. In 2025 she travelled to Iceland, Puerto Rico, France, and made her third trip to sub-Saharan Africa.*

## 21. Nia Fitness Class - Part 1 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)

**Campus**

**Instructor: Rebecca Donnelly**

Nia Fitness is a fusion fitness class that combines Dance Arts, Martial Arts, and the Healing Arts. It is generally done to world music and is often done barefoot (although shoes are allowed in the case of foot pain). This class is great for all fitness levels and can even be done from a chair. You will move every part of your body while gaining agility, flexibility, mobility, and stability. You won't be aware of that because you will just be having fun and enjoying the dance!

*Rebecca holds a Black Belt in the Nia Technique and has been teaching for approximately 10 years. When not dancing, you can find her at her healing studio practicing acupuncture. Rebecca creates a warm and inviting atmosphere that welcomes all fitness levels.*

## 22. Poetry Workshop - Part 1 (Limit 16)

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Susan Marshall**

In this class we will share our poems weekly, offer gentle criticism, and support one another's work.

*Susan Marshall earned her English degree and her graduate degree at Notre Dame. She studied poetry under Sr. Maura Eichner and has been coordinating the poetry workshop for several years.*

## **23. Tales of Transformation & Renewal: A Film Class - Part 1**      **Zoom**

**Instructor: Amanda Joyce**

This course will focus on movies featuring a strong element of transformation, renewal or reinvention. It may be a spiritual awakening, a change of identity, a new attitude, or a new life journey. We will observe this theme as it evolves through decades of cinema history. A spirited discussion will be included in each class.

*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.*

## **24. Archimedes Dawn: Ancient Science and the Modern World**      **Zoom**

**Instructor: Jason Morris**

This course explores the intellectual foundations of western science in Greco-Roman Antiquity. Furthermore, it explores the ways in which the Greeks and Romans developed the foundations for such modern technological marvels as printed books, maps, indoor plumbing, glass, concrete, the internal combustion engine, computers, and even robotics. It considers why the Greeks and Romans limited their use of such technology, and chose not to develop it to modern levels even when they could have done so.

*Dr. Jason Morris is Chief Financial Officer for CripAntiquity, and an independent historian. His research focuses on ancient science, technology, and disabilities in Antiquity. He holds a PhD in Ancient History from the University of Leicester, UK, a MA with Distinction in Classics from Victoria University Wellington, NZ, and a BA in Classics, Magna cum Laude, from Dickinson College, USA.*

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**Thursday**

**First 6 Week Classes**

**Feb 5 – Mar 12**

**9:15AM – 10:30AM**

**25. Those Madcap Mitford Girls**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Marianna Russell**

The lives of the six Mitford sisters spanned the entire 20th century and extended into the 21st. They were beautiful, smart, fiercely independent, and frequently scandalous. They include a communist, two fascists, a duchess, and a celebrated novelist, Nancy. This course will explore their lives through lecture, fiction, memoir, letters, and film.

*Marianna Russell graduated from Notre Dames's Continuing Education program with a B.A. in English and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies, also at Notre Dame. She has taught several courses at the Renaissance Institute on English literature and social history.*

**26. Big History: The Big Bang, Life on Earth, and the Rise of Humanity II - Part 1**

**Campus**

**Instructor: John Meredith**

This course explores the history of everything, from the beginning of the universe to modern day. The Fall Semester started with the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago and continued until the development of Agriculture. Part 1 of the Spring semester will take us to 2,000 BCE. Using The Great Courses format, we will show two 30-minute videos per day from Professor David Christian from San Diego State University with some discussion. You may take this Course if you did not take the First Semester.

*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.*

## **27. Great Decisions 2026 (Limit 25 on Campus)**

**Hybrid**

**Instructor: Tim Casey**

Eight Foreign Policy topics, having major impact on the US and world. Course content is prepared by leading, non-partisan foreign policy experts. For each topic DVD Video and Briefing Book compliment class discussions. Class participation is required and we discuss the approach to this for each topic.

**Textbook (optional): The Great Decisions 2026 Briefing Book \$30 is optional, but adds significantly to topic content, understanding, and class discussion.**

*Tim Casey has been a Renaissance Institute member since 2019.*

## **28. 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 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. New writers and experienced writers are welcome. This is a hybrid class, taught in person and on zoom.

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

## 29. Chinese Architecture – Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Eugene Geinzer, S. J.**

This exploration of Chinese Architecture does two things: (A) Introduce the full range of Classical Imperial Chinese Architecture types (Temple, Pagoda, Gate, Garden and Bridge); (B) Introduce SIX major types of Domestic Chinese Architecture (1) Han Siheyuan; (2) Bai and Naxi variations of the Siheyuan; (3) two types of Ganlan [stilt] houses; (4) Earthen houses of Loess Plateau, of the Hani, of the Uyghur; (5) Circular Earth Houses of Hakka; (6) the Tibetan house.

*Eugene Geinzer, S.J., is a retired Architect and Cabinet Maker. He did Graduate Sculpture at Pratt Institute of Art and Graduate Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology. He has taught ceramic sculpture, woodworking, philosophy of art, drawing at various universities (Georgetown, Loyola Chicago, The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies and Saint Joseph University). He has designed additions to houses and fabricated furniture for many institutions.*

## 30. Anne Frank: Her Life, Her Diary and Beyond

**Zoom**

**Instructor: John Damond**

Participants will learn about the life of Anne Frank beyond what is told in her diary, including the life of her diary, her impact on society, and her transformation from teenage girl to icon and the face of the Holocaust. Her story is also told alongside major events of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust as a whole in order to provide context and understanding as to how the Holocaust was able to occur. This is primarily a lecture with discussion.

*John Damond is a librarian at the Pratt Library and has been presenting programs about Anne Frank since 2010 for middle schools, public libraries, and senior centers. John has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Catholic University, a Master's in Library Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh, and Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Gratz College*

## **11:00AM – 12:15PM**

### **31. Great Scenes in Opera – Part 1**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Roger Brunyate**

Presentations of opera generally focus on famous arias and the artists who sang them. But opera is a dramatic medium that depends upon building tension over extended periods, encompassing arias, recitative, duets, and ensembles. We will take longish continuous sequences from operas by Purcell, Mozart, Donizetti, Verdi, Wagner and Mussorgsky explaining their context, playing them in a modern video with English titles, and leaving plenty of time for discussion.

*A long-time musician, Roger Brunyate was Artistic Director of the Peabody Opera for thirty years. Before that, he worked as a stage director and designer in Europe, taught Art History at Glasgow University, and studied Literature at Cambridge. His past ten years of adult teaching once more allows him to inspire others with the interaction of so many arts.*

### **32. Medicine Painting: Processing and Healing Through Painting – Part 1 (Limit 15)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Andrea Sauer**

By using intentional creativity, we activate our own life force which is a powerful tool to summon your own inner healer. In a world that sometimes feels overwhelming, we explore ways painting can be used to resolve a personal wound, story, or limiting beliefs. We will learn concrete strategies for working with triggers that surface and ways to purposely bring more joy into our lives. **Class Supplies Fee: \$25.00**

*Andrea Sauer has painted professionally for 30 years and shows in many galleries throughout the United States. She has taught art for twenty-five years in the public school system but more recently has taken her understanding of trauma and ways to rewire the brain through artistic practices to create classes that focus on using painting as ways to gain insight and promote personal healing.*

### 33. History of Photography – Part 1

**Campus**

**Instructor: David Lavine**

Lecture. 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 forms such as portraiture, art, journalism, and advertising. We should be able to come away with an understanding of how photographs are made and understand photography within historical and social contexts.

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

### 34. Views of the News - Part 1

**Hybrid**

**Instructor: Hollis Jackson**

We discuss the current news, with calmness and courtesy to those with different points of views. We want to hear what others think and why. We end with some 'Good news', to lower everyone's blood pressure and elevate their moods.

*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. Hollis has been at RI since 2010. She has taught a variety of classes, but This is the one that continues.*

## 35. Chair Yoga - Part 1

**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.*

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

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Peter Whedbee & Helga Penner**

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 holds a BS in Applied IT from the University of Baltimore and has been in RI Prose, Poetry, and Memory Pictures since 2020.*

*Helga holds a BA in English from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) and an MA in Contemporary Communication from Notre Dame of Maryland University. She has participated in RI classes including Memory Pictures since 2022.*

## **37. Imprisoned Without Trial: Japanese Incarceration in WWII** **Zoom**

**Instructor: Dennis Kato**

Anti-Asian violence: A modern-day occurrence? Not at all. Fear, hatred, and racism toward the Chinese and Japanese began in the mid 1800's culminating with the incarceration of over 125,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans at the beginning of WWII. From the perspective of a third generation Japanese-American, we will learn about the camps and today's events. This class is on Zoom.

*A third generation Japanese, Dennis Kato was born and raised in Cincinnati, OH. After graduation from the University of Cincinnati, he was a first lieutenant in military intelligence in the Army. He has been researching the camps for over eleven years and has been conducting presentations on the Japanese incarceration camps since 2019. He and his wife Janet have visited all ten camp locations.*

## **1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **38. Open Art Studio – Part 1 (Limit 15) Parts 1 & 2 Required**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Joan Elisabeth Reid**

Open art studio where students can work on their own art projects. We will explore pencil drawing, pen & ink, watercolor as well as techniques, composition, and value. There will be instruction with assignments, although more advanced students may choose to work on their own projects. Assignments will include working in postcard format (fun for travel), translating a photograph into a successful work of art, and some fun challenges.

*Joan Elisabeth Reid has worked in watercolor for over twenty years in response to travel and nature. Most recently she has been working in pencil and pen & ink combining these media with watercolor. 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.*

### **39. Acting 101 – Part 1 (Limit 15)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Natalie Pilcher**

This course is an Introduction to Acting class. We will explore the basics of character development, script work, and core theatre terminology. Some vocal and physical acting exercises will be included with students participating as personally capable. Each student will have the opportunity to develop a short 1 1/2 - 2 minute monologue of their choosing. The instructor will provide material should class members request it. Short multi-character scripts may also be utilized as part of the work. **Class Fee: \$5.00 cost for script printing.**

*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.*

**1:15PM – 2:30PM**

**40. 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.*

**41. Shel Silverstein – Life and Works**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Laurie Rosenberg**

So much more than a children's author. Discover the amazing works and life of Shel Silverstein

*Laurie was the owner of multiple small businesses. She was the Comptroller and Property Manager for a multi-million dollar industrial complex for over 20 years. She loves learning, teaching and all things Renaissance (plus her great grandson!).*

## 42. Science and Technology News - Part 1

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Robert Poor**

Members of the class will present and discuss with the class an item they have read/heard about from any source regarding anything having a scientific or technological aspect. The presentation could be a short video or their summary of an article they have read or their follow-up on some news item they hear. Frequency of presentation will be dependent on the class size and the length of any individual presentation. We will rotate presentations in alphabetical order.

*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 University, and a JD from the University of Maryland School of Law.*

## 43. 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.*

# **Tuesday**

## **Second 6 Week Classes**

**Mar 24 – Apr 28**

**9:15AM – 10:30AM**

## **44. Learning from Children's Poetry**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Joan E. Hellman**

In this lecture, discussion class, we'll explore children's poems from the ages. Many of us grew up with the poems of Field, Stevenson, and Riley. Perhaps, we read the poems of Silverstein to our grandchildren. What can we learn from these creations about the changing views of childhood?

*Joan has degrees in American Literature and Developmental Reading from SUNY Binghamton, Syracuse University, and Northern Illinois University. She taught for 30 years at CCBC, and after retirement, is working in Financial Aid at the college. She still has trouble keeping a check book, but enjoys helping students find money for college!*

## **45. Anarchists and Nazis in Baltimore in World I and II**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Jennifer Liles**

This is a lecture-based course. We will discuss Baltimore's role in both World Wars as well as the history of the German population of Baltimore and its Jewish population leading to World War II. This lecture will cover how organizations in Baltimore aided and opposed the Wars and at times worked to undermine the country's official stance on the Wars.

*Jennifer Liles 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.*

## 46. Downsizing and Organizing So Your Kids Won't Have To **Zoom**

**Instructor: Cindy Bernstein**

If you've been wanting to organize your home but have been putting it off (or avoiding it like the plague), this is the class for you! Each week, you will learn tips and tricks to tackle accumulated areas of the home that may include closets, kitchen drawers, basements, paper piles, clothes, BOOKS and more! You will learn and share local resources to help you unload your stuff painlessly. Weekly homework will insure you make a big dent!

*Cindy Bernstein, Professional Organizer and Owner of Aim 4 Order, offers hope and hands on help to the overwhelmed and organizationally challenged. Cindy and her team work side by side with clients to find lasting order and peace. Aim 4 Order, specializes in Senior moves and her husband Howard assists clients by selling items on eBay. Cindy is a seasoned instructor for RI, CCBC, JCC and Myerberg Senior Center and thoroughly enjoys Zoom Classes!*

## 47. Spanish is Fun - Advanced Intermediate - Part 2 **Zoom**

**Instructor: Judy Frumkin**

This course will be taught on Zoom. Emphasis is placed on conversation and participation in the class. We will discuss superstition, the wonders of the animal kingdom, jobs and professions and personalities. We will also discuss the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and readings, including literary works. **Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 2 - Perfection Learning**

*Judy Frumkin taught Spanish in the Baltimore City Public School system for 30 years at Dunbar, City College and Western high Schools. Previously, she had taught Spanish in schools in New York. She has also taught at Sojourner-Douglass and Baltimore City Community College. She holds certificates from the Universidad Menendez y Pelayo in Santander, Spain.*

## 48. Charcoal Portrait Drawing -Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Alina Kurbiel**

Join me for a creative journey into the world of charcoal drawing!

We'll start with simple still-life studies to get comfortable with various charcoal techniques. Step by step, you'll learn to capture light and shadow to create a sense of depth and form. As we progress, we'll move on to animal and human portraits, exploring proportion and shading. This class is ideal for beginners and those wishing to refine their portrait skills.

*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 warm, encouraging teaching style and creative approach, Alina inspires artists of all levels to explore and grow in their artistic journey.*

## 49. Qigong – Movements for Health and Vitality! - Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Pamela Tanton**

Qigong is a gentle and flowing healing art that's good for so many things, including stress relief, balance, and flexibility. It can relieve anxiety and enhance one's overall sense of well-being, and it opens up your body in a way that feels great. We do standing and seated movements in class, and the movements are learned in a sequence. Anyone who'd rather sit the entire time may do so. For the spring semester, we'll focus on a sequence called Return to Spring. This class meets on Zoom.

*Pamela has been teaching Qigong since 2004. She began studying with her Chinese qigong master in 2002 and has taken countless teacher trainings, workshops, and seminars with him over the years. She has a light-hearted style and truly loves her Renaissance classes, where she's been teaching since spring 2018. She is a 1979 graduate of Goucher College.*

**11:00AM – 12:15PM**

## **50. Reading Herman Hesse's Siddhartha**

**Campus**

**Instructor: George Amoss**

Hermann Hesse's short novel Siddhartha tells the story of a seeker who lived at the time of the Buddha. In an almost scriptural style, it narrates Siddhartha's quest for enlightenment. Each chapter illustrates a basic Buddhist teaching. We'll read and discuss two chapters each week. Instructor will provide background information and explanations of unfamiliar terms. Format: reading, lecture, and discussion. **Will need a copy of Siddhartha by Herman Hesse.**

*George's studies at NDMU included a major in Religious Studies and a minor in English. He also holds an MSW and has studied at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute. He has practiced, taught, and written about Buddhist philosophy and meditation for over 50 years.*

## **51. Liberty on Trial in America**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Laurie Rosenberg**

Go behind the scenes of the trials that brought many of the liberties we enjoy today. You'll learn exactly what happened when Susan B. Anthony decided to vote in a national election, when activists promoted radical ideas in the 1880s in Chicago, when Jehovah's Witnesses decided their children should not be forced to salute the American flag in school, and more.

*Laurie was the owner of multiple small businesses. She was the Comptroller and Property Manager for a multi-million dollar industrial complex for over 20 years. She loves learning, teaching and all things Renaissance (plus her great grandson!).*

## 52. Renaissance Singers - Part 2

**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.*

## 53. Yoknapatawpha County: The Literature of Faulkner – Part 2 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Robert Jacobs**

"The past is never dead," wrote Faulkner, "it's not even past." Yoknapatawpha County was the grand fictional setting that allowed Faulkner to explore how the past endures and continually shapes our lives. In this class we will interrogate the way Faulkner used an experimental modernist prose style to establish a profound understanding of the connections between time, memory, and place and the impact they have on the development of both personal and national consciousness. **Will need a copy of the novel, The Sound and the Fury.**

*After graduating with a B.A. in English from Towson University, Robert Jacobs traveled to the U.K. 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, Towson Osher, and the Notre Dame Renaissance Institute.*

## 54. Creative Writing Techniques: Examples and Exercises - Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Barbara Diehl**

In this Zoom course, we will discuss creative writing techniques and how they are used in contemporary writing—with the goal of freeing our imaginations and generating raw material to polish for publication later. Topics include brainstorming techniques and a range of literary devices. We will look at poems and excerpts from fiction and creative nonfiction in literary journals and write in response to prompts, with time at the end of each class for comments, questions, and sharing.

*Barbara Westwood Diehl is the senior editor of The Baltimore Review, a literary journal of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction founded in 1996. She has a master's in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University, and her own work has been published in a variety of literary journals. <https://www.barbarawestwooddiehl.com/>*

## 55. New Yorker Roundtable - Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Brian Young**

The Roundtable is a discussion of articles in the current issue of The New Yorker magazine. Each week, 4-5 articles are assigned in advance to be read. Articles include politics, advances in science, international relations, book reviews, short stories, poetry and more. In the class, each article is presented with a brief overview followed by discussion by class members. Discussion includes the effect the article has on the reader, comments about writing style, and observations on the topic. **Participants need to acquire The New Yorker magazine by subscription or library.**

*Brian is a retired program manager in the aerospace industry. He has been involved in discussions of The New Yorker magazine for 12 years, including 7 years leading the Roundtable class at RI.*

## 56. Spanish Is Fun - Intermediate - Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Judy Frumkin**

This course will be taught on Zoom. Emphasis is placed on conversation and participation in the class. We will discuss food, location, doing fun activities, clothing and the animal kingdom. We will also discuss the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and readings, including literary works. **Textbook: Spanish Is Fun Book 1 - Perfection Learning**

*Judy Frumkin taught Spanish in the Baltimore City Public School system for 30 years at Dunbar, City College and Western high Schools. Previously, she had taught Spanish in schools in New York. She has also taught at Sojourner-Douglass and Baltimore City Community College. She holds certificates from the Universidad Menendez y Pelayo in Santander, Spain.*

## 57. 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.*

## **58. Sign & Shine: American Sign Language (ASL) for Everyday Conversation – Part 2** **Zoom**

**Instructor: Renuka Purimetla**

Discover the joy of communication through American Sign Language—no books required! This interactive workshop and discussion-based course introduces everyday signs and expressions through conversation, short films, and hands-on practice. Each session builds confidence and connection, while keeping learning light, social, and fun. Come laugh, learn, and “talk with your hands” in a warm, supportive community setting.

*Renuka Purimetla is a Sign Language Interpreter and educator who loves helping others discover the joy of communication through ASL. After teaching this wonderful Renaissance group before, she’s thrilled to return! Renuka looks forward to reconnecting with familiar faces, meeting new friends, and creating a fun, uplifting space to learn, laugh, and sign together.*

**1:15PM – 2:30PM**

**59. Great Stories of the Old Testament: A Present-day Reflection Campus  
- Part 2**

**Instructor: Fr. Stephen Spahn, S. J.**

This lecture and discussion course will examine some of the great stories of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) -- paying special attention to what they reveal about who God is and who we are. We will also endeavor to apply the themes and poignant questions they raise to our own present circumstances in America and the world today.

*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).*

**60. Creating Character Driven Fiction – Part 2  
(Parts 1 & 2 Required)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Barbara Bachur**

The course will consist of fiction writing in the Character Driven format - an exciting and challenging way to create rich and satisfying work. The class will consist of lectures, discussion and workshop. By the end of this 12-week course, after having created Flash Fiction and Short Story, each student will have completed a novella of approximately 17,000 words.

*Barbara Bachur has taught Writing and Literature in a wide variety of settings, ranging from workshop to classroom, to a special 'needs population' in an institution. Her background includes creative writing in all formats, business writing, and ghost writing a chapter of a professional book. She has a degree in English, both writing and literature, from Goucher College. She is currently working on her memoir.*

## 61. Acting Improvisation – Part 2 (Limit 20)

**Campus**

**Instructor: Natalie Pilcher**

This class will offer a fun, relaxed setting in which to explore improvisational acting. Whether you've always wanted to see what this acting thing is about or you're a seasoned "pro" – you'll have fun exploring your creative imagination. This is a no-pressure way to enjoy collaborating with the group doing theatre games such as: Freeze, One Minute Professor, and Best Friend's Advice. We will create a safe space to dive into unscripted short scenes.

*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.*

## 62. Nia Fitness Class - Part 2 (Parts 1 & 2 Required)

**Campus**

**Instructor: Rebecca Donnelly**

Nia Fitness is a fusion fitness class that combines Dance Arts, Martial Arts, and the Healing Arts. It is generally done to world music and is often done barefoot (although shoes are allowed in the case of foot pain). This class is great for all fitness levels and can even be done from a chair. You will move every part of your body while gaining agility, flexibility, mobility, and stability. You won't be aware of that because you will just be having fun and enjoying the dance!

*Rebecca holds a Black Belt in the Nia Technique and has been teaching for approximately 10 years. When not dancing, you can find her at her healing studio practicing acupuncture. Rebecca creates a warm and inviting atmosphere that welcomes all fitness levels.*

## 63. Poetry Workshop - Part 2 (Limit 16)

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Susan Marshall**

In this class we will share our poems weekly, offer gentle criticism, and support one another's work.

*Susan Marshall earned her English degree and her graduate degree at Notre Dame. She studied poetry under Sr. Maura Eichner and has been coordinating the poetry workshop for several years.*

## 64. Tales of Transformation and Renewal: A Film Class – Part 2 **Zoom**

**Instructor: Amanda Joyce**

This course will focus on movies featuring a strong element of transformation, renewal or reinvention. It may be a spiritual awakening, a change of identity, a new attitude, or a new life journey. We will observe this theme as it evolves through decades of cinema history. A spirited discussion will be included in each class.

*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*

## 65. Walks in the Walters

**Zoom**

**Instructors: 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 artis*

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

**Thursday**

**Second 6 Week Classes**

**Mar 26 – Apr 30**

**9:15AM – 10:30AM**

**66. An Idiosyncratic Tour of Baltimore History**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Michael S. Franch**

The course will use (mostly) 19th-century examples, which are fascinating themselves, to help people see the past in present-day Baltimore. Among other things, we'll look at urban expansion, population migration, religious changes, and why houses were built over former burial grounds. Another goal will be to help people think about where they fit into the Baltimore story.

*Michael S. Franch (American history Ph.D. University of Maryland) has written and talked about Baltimore history for decades. Mike coordinated the First Conference on Baltimore History, founded the Baltimore City Historical Society's (BCHS) Baltimore History Evening series and its Facebook group, and been a Doors Open Baltimore presenter. He is a former BCHS president and current board chair.*

**67. Big History: The Big Bang, Life on Earth, and the Rise of Humanity II - Part 2**

**Campus**

**Instructor: John Meredith**

This course explores the history of everything, from the beginning of the universe to modern day. The Fall Semester started with the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago and Part 1 of the Spring semester took us to 2,000 BCE. Part 2 will continue to study human development into the next millenium. Using The Great Courses format, we will show two 30-minute videos per day from Dr. David Christian, San Diego State University, with some discussion. You may take this Course if you did not take Part 1.

*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.*

## 68. Great Decisions 2026 – Part 2 (Limit 25 on Campus)

**Hybrid**

**Instructor: Tim Casey**

Eight Foreign Policy topics having major impact on the US and world. Course content is prepared by leading, non-Partisan foreign policy experts. For each topic DVD Video and Briefing Book compliment class discussions. Class participation is required and we discuss the approach to this for each topic. **Textbook (optional): The Great Decisions 2026 Briefing Book \$30 is optional, but adds significantly to topic content, understanding, and class discussion.**

*Tim Casey has been a Renaissance Institute member since 2019.*

## 69. 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 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. New writers and experienced writers are welcome. This is a hybrid class, taught in person and on zoom.

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

## 70. Exploring Arts of the Ancient and Colonial Americas

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Julie Lauffenburger**

This course will be lecture and discussion via Zoom. Instructor will provide PowerPoint and short video content to unpack some of the styles and periods of artistic mastery of the ancient and colonial Americas with an emphasis on less well-known traditions of ancient West Mexico, central America and Northern Peru. Topics explored will include materials and techniques, fakes and forgeries and collecting trends presented by the instructor and invited guest lecturers with related expertise.

*Julie Lauffenburger is Conservator Emerita of the Walters Art Museum where she worked for 35 years in the department of Conservation and Technical Research, serving as Department Director over the last decade. Julie has an expertise in arts of the Ancient and Colonial Americas and has traveled, lectured, and published on topics related to the material culture of the region.*

## 71. Chinese Architecture – Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Eugene Geinzer, S. J.**

This exploration of Chinese Architecture does two things: (A) Introduce the full range of Classical Imperial Chinese Architecture types (Temple, Pagoda, Gate, Garden and Bridge); (B) Introduce SIX major types of Domestic Chinese Architecture (1) Han Siheyuan; (2) Bai and Naxi variations of the Siheyuan; (3) two types of Ganlan [stilt] houses; (4) Earthen houses of Loess Plateau, of the Hani, of the Uyghur; (5) Circular Earth Houses of Hakka; (6) the Tibetan house.

*Eugene Geinzer, S.J., is a retired Architect and Cabinet Maker. He did Graduate Sculpture at Pratt Institute of Art and Graduate Architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology. He has taught ceramic sculpture, woodworking, philosophy of art, drawing at various universities (Georgetown, Loyola Chicago, The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies and Saint Joseph University). He has designed additions to houses and fabricated furniture for many institutions*

## **72. The Early Plantagenets: Kings of England from 1066 to 1216**

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Carol Friedrich**

This class will be mostly lectures with some discussion and videos. We will look at the kings of England from William the Conqueror to King John. We will also look at the role of women and the structure of society.

This is a repeat of the Fall Semester class that I presented in person.

*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.*

**11:00AM – 12:15PM**

## **73. Great Scenes in Opera – Part 2**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Roger Brunyate**

Presentations of opera generally focus on famous arias and the artists who sang them. But opera is a dramatic medium that depends upon building tension over extended periods, encompassing arias, recitative, duets, and ensembles. We will take longish continuous sequences from operas by Bizet, Massenet, Puccini, Strauss, Gershwin and Britten explaining their context, playing them in a modern video with English titles, and leaving plenty of time for discussion.

*A long-time musician, Roger Brunyate was Artistic Director of the Peabody Opera for thirty years. Before that, he worked as a stage director and designer in Europe, taught Art History at Glasgow University, and studied Literature at Cambridge. His past ten years of adult teaching once more allows him to inspire others with the interaction of so many arts.*

## **74. Medicine Painting: Processing and Healing Through Painting – Part 2 (Limit 15)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Andrea Sauer**

By using intentional creativity, we activate our own life force which is a powerful tool to summon your own inner healer. In a world that sometimes feels overwhelming, we explore ways painting can be used to resolve a personal wound, story, or limiting beliefs. We will learn concrete strategies for working with triggers that surface and ways to purposely bring more joy into our lives. **Class Supplies Fee: \$25.00**

*Andrea Sauer has painted professionally for 30 years and shows in many galleries throughout the United States. She has taught art for twenty-five years in the public school system but more recently has taken her understanding of trauma and ways to rewire the brain through artistic practices to create classes that focus on using painting as ways to gain insight and promote personal healing.*

## 75. History of Photography – Part 2

**Campus**

**Instructor: David Lavine**

Lecture. 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 forms such as portraiture, art, journalism, and advertising. We should be able to come away with an understanding of how photographs are made and understand photography within historical and social contexts.

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

## 76. Espionage In Heels: The Story of Women Spies during the Civil War and WW I & II

**Campus**

**Instructor: Barbara Ressin**

There were many brilliant, fearless women who were spies during the Civil War, WWI and WWII. However, their endeavors are mostly unknown. Their contributions were as important as their male counterparts, yet they remain a footnote in history. Some worked for resistance efforts, others with the OSS, the forerunner to the CIA. Still others worked with the military itself. Some lived to tell their tales, Others did not. And one was born and raised in Baltimore, MD! Hear their stories.

*Barbara Ressin graduated from Towson University with a BS. She taught 3 years in Baltimore City School system, 25 years in private schools, and has been teaching adult ed for the last 15 years at CCBC at various campuses, Towson U. under Osher auspices, Oasis under Johns Hopkins auspices and the RI, as well as various churches and synagogues.*

## 77. Plays of Tennessee Williams: Known and Not So Known

**Campus**

**Instructor: Steve Sutton**

We will read and study three to four plays by Tennessee Williams, another of America's great playwrights who are often overlooked. Probable plays are *The Glass Menagerie*, *Camino Real*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*, with hopefully time for *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. We might also be looking at some clips from the plays.

*Steve taught high school English for 35 years. He minored in theater in college and has always liked the stories that plays tell us.*

## 78. Chair Yoga - Part 2

**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.*

## 79. Views of the News - Part 2

**Hybrid**

**Instructor: Hollis Jackson**

We discuss the current news, with calmness and courtesy to those with different points of views. We want to hear what others think and why. We end with some 'Good news', to lower everyone's blood pressure and elevate their moods.

*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. Hollis has been at RI since 2010. She has taught a variety of classes, but This is the one that continues.*

## 80. Memory Pictures / Writers Workshop - Part 2 (Limit 16)

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Peter Whedbee & Helga Penner**

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 holds a BS in Applied IT from the University of Baltimore and has been in RI Prose, Poetry, and Memory Pictures since 2020.*

*Helga holds a BA in English from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) and an MA in Contemporary Communication from Notre Dame of Maryland University. She has participated in RI classes including Memory Pictures since 2022.*

## **1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **81. Open Art Studio – Part 2 (Limit 15) Parts 1 & 2 Required**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Joan Elisabeth Reid**

Open art studio where students can work on their own art projects. We will explore pencil drawing, pen & ink, watercolor as well as techniques, composition, and value. There will be instruction with assignments, although more advanced students may choose to work on their own projects. Assignments will include working in postcard format (fun for travel), translating a photograph into a successful work of art, and some fun challenges.

*Joan Elisabeth Reid has worked in watercolor for over twenty years in response to travel and nature. Most recently she has been working in pencil and pen & ink combining these media with watercolor. 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.*

### **82. Acting 101 – Part 2 (Limit 15)**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Natalie Pilcher**

This course is an Introduction to Acting class. We will explore the basics of character development, script work, and core theatre terminology. Some vocal and physical acting exercises will be included with students participating as personally capable. Each student will have the opportunity to develop a short 1 1/2 - 2 minute monologue of their choosing. The instructor will provide material should class members request it. Short multi-character scripts may also be utilized as part of the work. **\$5.00 cost for script printing.**

*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.*

## 83. Movies in the Afternoon (Limit 30)

**Campus**

**Instructor: Ted Walman and Joe 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 brief summary of the film including the title, year made, plot summary, actors, and director. The film is then shown with "closed captions". After the film concludes, the instructors will provide additional background and promote open discussion.

*Ted Walman is a retired optometrist and has a great love of movies and extensive knowledge.*

*Joe Lapicki is a retired architect who enjoys sharing the experience of film with the members of Renaissance.*

**1:15 – 2:30PM**

## **84. The Aging Brain**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Jon P. Stanton, PhD**

This course covers the evolutionary development of the human brain as our adaptive mechanism. (the Brain through the ages). It describes basic operational mechanisms, normal structural/behavioral relationships, then moves to normal and abnormal changes as we age. Neurological disorders that occur with aging, such as Dementia and Parkinson's disease are explained and treatments discussed. Pharmacology and the brain are also treated. Course format is lecture, film, and guest speakers.

*Dr. Jon Stanton holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and is cross trained in behavioral and physiological psychology. He has served as a Guest Scientist at the National Institute on Drug Abuse and has numerous publications in Psychopharmacology. Dr. Stanton is currently an Associate Professor of Psychology at Notre Dame of Maryland University*

## **85. Misia Sert: Patron and Muse to Artists of the Belle Époque and Beyond**

**Campus**

**Instructor: Christine Bentley**

Misia Sert, who is largely forgotten today, was a Parisian hostess and patroness of the arts. She was the confidante and inspiration to many artists, composers and writers of her day. She was painted by numerous artists and had an uncanny ability to recognize talent, make connections and promote the careers of those who defined the creative life of Belle Époque era. Using a social history format, Power Point and film, we will explore the life, times and artistic relationships of this muse.

*Christine Bentley, LCSW-C worked as a clinical social worker for 33 years prior to retirement. She has taught at Osher, CCBC and The Renaissance Institute since that time. Her focus in teaching is in the areas of art history and historic personalities.*

## 86. Six Books in Six Weeks (Limit 20)

Campus

**Instructor: Maggie Ward**

Although we have a new facilitator, the format of the course will be similar. We discuss a new book each week, focusing on theme, character, literary style and anything else that sparks! Folks who enjoy thought-provoking fiction and meaningful conversation are welcome. Selections are roughly 200 pages, accessible, and designed for discussion. Whether you are a seasoned reader or just rediscovering literature, this course offers community, insight, and a fresh novel every week!

*Maggie Ward was a teacher of English and theater at a local private school for 45 years. In addition to teaching, she produced and directed more than a hundred school theater productions. She has been a member of RI for several years and has enjoyed teaching classes on Shakespeare's comedies.*

## 87. 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.*

## 88. 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.*

## 89. Science and Technology News - Part 2

**Zoom**

**Instructor: Robert Poor**

Members of the class will present and discuss with the class an item they have read/heard about from any source regarding anything having a scientific or technological aspect. The presentation could be a short video or their summary of an article they have read or their follow-up on some news item they hear. Frequency of presentation will be dependent on the class size and the length of any individual presentation. We will rotate presentations in alphabetical order.

*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 University, and a JD from the University of Maryland School of Law.*



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

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