



## 2024 Spring Class Descriptions

### TUESDAY

**10:30-11:45am**

**Mar 26**

#### **Laugh Loudly and Carry a Large Schtick, with Meish Goldish**

Since the dawn of television, there have been many popular comedy-variety shows on the air, including *The Milton Berle Show*, *The Sid Caesar Comedy Hour*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *Second City Television*, and *Saturday Night Live*. Each show featured either a cast of regulars or guest celebrities who performed in humorous skits. In this class, we will watch a number of hilarious short episodes (ones Meish hasn't shown previously). We'll discuss several questions (and of course try to answer yours): What makes each skit funny? Is it the writing, the acting or both? If a skit is decades old, would it still be considered politically correct to televise today? Meish is the author of 500+ books, including *Oy Vey! A Yiddish Coloring Book?* for adults and has performed standup himself. Wrote for the television series *Shalom Sesame*, which first aired on PBS in 1986.

**April 2**

#### **Broadway Bids Farewell: Chita Rivera and Sheldon Harnick, with Karen Valen**

Chita Rivera and Sheldon Harnick, both three-time Tony winners, passed away recently. This class will provide many of their career highlights through video clips. We'll see Chita dancing and singing in her many roles on Broadway: *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and so many others. Sheldon Harnick's lyrics for *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Fiorello*, *The Rothschilds*, and others will be on display. And yes, a guarantee that Zero will appear wishing to be a rich man. Karen has been attending theater regularly since 1954 when Mary Martin flew past her in *Peter Pan*, and she ushers both on and off-Broadway.

**April 9**

**What Current Polling Tells Us About the Upcoming Elections, with Lee Miringoff and Inara de Leon**

Dr. Lee Miringoff, Founder and Director of the widely regarded Marist College Institute of Public Opinion, looks at the current scene in politics through the lens of polling. Now that the presidential race is down to two candidates, what is the state of play? A recent *New York Times* poll showed potentially big problems for the Biden campaign with apathy in key voting groups like Latinos and Blacks, even women. Will the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Gaza affect this race? Still, Donald Trump also has big liabilities, including unfolding financial and legal problems. Also, can the Democrats hold onto their slim majority in the Senate? Key races are shaping up in Ohio, North Carolina, and Nevada, among others. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s third party candidacy continues to cause anxiety in a presidential race that could hinge on just a few votes in swing states. Does he hurt Democrats or Republicans more? While poll numbers seem to offer concrete, quantifiable answers to these questions, Dr. Miringoff will explain how to interpret those numbers – which polls are considered “better” or more accurate than others? Which are non-partisan, and why? What other questions might you have about polls? Inara was a longtime producer of politics at WNBC and NBC News.

**April 16**

**Exploring America’s Quirky Small American Towns, with Karen Gershowitz**

A surprising number of offbeat small towns have the best the US has to offer – and almost no one knows about them. They’ve got fabulous art, architecture, music, history, scenery, food and more. In some places, there are unique American subcultures. For example, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, is considered the heart of Cajun Country. Other towns are just plain quirky. Imagine visiting a museum that features a 100+ foot long fish sculpture that you can climb into and hang out of its mouth. Or a town of just over 1,000 people that converted a railroad bridge into a breathtaking, three-season garden. How about ghost towns? There are loads of those, some that swear they feature real ghosts. Karen will illustrate photos she has taken on her travels and tell us about what makes each place unique. She has written two books about travel, *Wanderlust* and *Travel Mania*.

**April 23, 30, May 7 (3 sessions)**

**Connecting Through Our Stories, with Bonnie Max**

This course offers an opportunity to investigate and discover through open-ended prompts your own voice and creativity. We write our own stories and share them with one another. Together we listen, laugh, get teary (sometimes), without receiving criticism or judgment. Through our writing, we validate our life experiences and feelings, and we connect with each other. All are

welcome to come – no previous writing experience is needed. Bonnie is a teacher, actress and director who taught writing in the Center for Writing program and Drama Production at John Bowne H.S. in Queens for 20 years, and has taught writing to adults since 2010, including to university students in Ghana.

**May 14**

**Women at Midlife and Beyond: What Research Reveals, with Diane Okrent and Deborah Ferro Burke**

Diane and Deborah have conducted research over the past quarter century with more than a thousand women from their 50s into their 80s. They looked at the women's lives over time: personal development, family life, careers, aspirations, losses, and the world around us. The studies create snapshots of life at different ages, as well as a long-term picture. Participants told them that it is confirming and comforting to learn about how other women live. Their research, both statistical and open-ended, was conducted among their classmates in the Smith College Class of 1973, other Smith alumnae 50-80 years old, and women in the US and Canada who attended other colleges and public universities. The stories they'll discuss in this session will inform both women and men about their own lives and can lead to further exploration of the choices we make as we age. Diane is a marketing research consultant specializing in qualitative research, moderating focus groups and conducting individual interviews; MBA, Marketing, NYU. Deborah is a specialist in leadership and human development; former corporate executive, management professor, consultant and coach; PhD, Human and Organization Systems, Fielding Graduate Univ.

**1:00-2:15pm**

**Mar 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 (8 sessions)**

**Poetry for Pleasure in the Winter, with Barry Wallenstein**

These lectures with discussion will involve close readings of poems – classic, modern, and contemporary. Our aim is to listen to the sound poems make. What makes a successful language performance? We will discuss these works' emotional truth, unity of expression, and attention-holding, pleasure-providing use of language. Barry Wallenstein is the author of 12 collections of poetry, most recently *It's About Time*, as well as *Time on the Move* and *Tony's Blues* (bilingual French and English).

**Link for Barry's Poetry Booklet for Spring 2024:**

**<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6182e00d9a96414770aa53bd/t/65fd9991465f821082dfed09/1711118737633/CLL+Spring+%2724+booklet.pdf>**

**2:45-4pm**

**Mar 26, Apr 2, 30, May 7, 14 (5 sessions)**

**What Do You Think? Discussion, with Bill Goldman**

This course is a group discussion of current events, focusing on significant economic, social, and political issues in the news. A few key articles from major newspapers and journals will be sent to students in advance to read so we can come to talk about our views on the subjects. We want to hear what you think! Bill Goldman has led current events discussion courses at SUNY New Paltz and Bard Lifelong Learning Institute; retired foreign service officer, US Agency for International Development.

**April 3, April 9\*, April 16\*, May 1 (4 sessions, April 3, May 1 on Tues; April 9, 16 on Weds)**

**Superb Suspense: Classic Movie Discussions, with Bobbie Stein**

This course focuses on suspense thrillers and film noir, with four sensational films from Hollywood's most dazzling classics. Bobbie discusses each movie, shows its trailer and selected video clips, and the backstory of the production, director and stars. Session #1: *Mildred Pierce* (1945). This is the story of a hard-working, devoted mother, and her treasured but conniving daughter – who both become involved with the same double-dealing man. Starring Joan Crawford, Ann Blyth, and Zachary Scott, and directed by Michael Curtiz, it is a classic film noir, filled with fog and shadows and night scenes in the rain. For this extraordinary mystery/thriller, Crawford won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her spectacular performance. A mother for the ages! Session #2: *The Night of the Hunter* (1955), starring Robert Mitchum, Shelly Winters and Lillian Gish. Mitchum plays a diabolical preacher, who is really a psychotic killer, and one of the most memorable screen villains of all time. He marries and murders Winters, then mercilessly stalks her two young children, hoping to steal a small fortune left to them by their dead father. Gish is the guardian angel protecting the little ones. *Hunter* was the only film ever directed by actor Charles Laughton, and what a thrilling job he did! Session #3: *Notorious* (1946). Directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Cary Grant, Ingrid Bergman and Claude Rains, this film is a heart-pounding spy story and a heart-wrenching tale of love and betrayal. Two men vie for the same beautiful woman, but only one can win. Featuring the longest and arguably most sensual kiss in movie history, between Bergman and Grant, *Notorious* is set amidst a World War II espionage scheme. From Washington, D.C., to Miami, to Rio de Janeiro, the trap is set for the Nazis, but they have ideas of their own. Session #4: *The Most Dangerous Game* (1932). Starring Fay Wray, Joel McCrea and Leslie Banks. This film is only 65 minutes long, but packs an unforgettable punch. When his yacht sinks off the coast of a remote island, McCrea swims to shore, only to find an ancient and mysterious mansion and its most peculiar owner, Count Zoroff. Zoroff tells his guest of his interest in big game hunting, and what he calls “the most dangerous game” – his guests. He sets them free on the island, gives them a head start, and then hunts them down. Anyone who manages to elude him, goes free. But, so far, that has never happened. The chase is on, and the

hunt starts at midnight! Bobbie asks that you watch the movies before class. They're available on Amazon and Apple. Bobbie was a writer and editor at *People* and *US Magazines*, and a researcher and producer at ABC, NBC, and CBS News. She's a lifelong lover of movies.

**April 23**

### **Inside TV News: PIX11's Marvin Scott, in Conversation with Magee Hickey**

Marvin Scott is PIX11's Senior Correspondent, now in his 44<sup>th</sup> year. He is a member of the NYS Broadcasters Hall of Fame and recipient of 12 prestigious Emmy awards for journalistic achievement. He joined WPIX in 1980 and has served as anchor, reporter, host and producer. His background in print and broadcast media includes local, national and international assignments. Previously he anchored *INN Midday Edition* and *USA Tonight Weekend*, nationally syndicated newscasts; co-anchored *WB11 News at Ten*; was anchor/reporter at WNEW-TV (now WNYW-TV). Other experience includes anchor, correspondent and producer at CNN, Mutual Broadcasting System and WABC-TV; feature writer for the *New York Herald Tribune*, contributing editor to *Parade Magazine*. As a teenager, he chased fires and news stories with his camera, at 14 selling a photo of a raging fire to the *NY Daily News*. Covered front lines of Iraq, Cambodia and the Middle East; reported on protests led by Dr. Martin Luther King. Interviewed six American presidents, and Middle East leaders, including Golda Meier, Yitzhak Rabin, Yasser Arafat. Has covered every NYC mayor since John Lindsay. Author, *As I Saw It: A Reporter's Intrepid Journey*. Professional honors/awards include a citation in the Congressional Record for "responsible reporting" of urban riots, Associated Press Broadcasters award for reporting on the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident, two AP honors for "Outstanding Interview." A Bronx native, he is installed in the Bronx Walk of Fame and the Bronx Jewish Hall of Fame. His photography has been exhibited in NY galleries. PIX11's Magee Hickey has been a reporter for every NYC TV station over her long career.

**WEDNESDAY**

**10:30-11:45am**

**March 27, Apr 3, 10, 17 (4 sessions)**

### **The Beatles' Final Years 1968-1970, with Scott McLaren**

We'll discuss the Beatles' search for greater meaning via Transcendental Meditation followed by their formation of and motivation for Apple Corps, their business venture. We'll explore the music of "The Beatles" (aka *White*) album, the "Get Back" sessions and their swansong album, "Abbey Road." Lastly, we'll end with events leading to and finalizing their break-up. The Beatles changed pop music and, more broadly, the culture, in their home country and the world. This is a follow-on to the fall semester class where we discussed the Beatles' rise to fame and the subsequent Beatlemania that spread across Britain, the USA and beyond. This course continues their story, discussing the impact of touring, their changing relationship with the

press and audience, the influence of drugs, Bob Dylan, and the Beatles' wives/girlfriends. Part #1: The music of *Rubber Soul* (1965) and *Revolver* (1966), and how the use of the studio and how their music was changing. Part #2: The impact of their no longer touring, how each band member explored solo projects, the changing roles within the band and their manager Brian Epstein's death. We'll also delve into the inspiration for and music of *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album (1967) and the *Magical Mystery Tour* film/EP.

**April 24**

### **CL&L Focus Group on Images of Older People, with Judy Langer**

We'll discuss how older people are seen by the media, in politics and even by older people themselves. Wiser, gentler, knowledgeable about the meaning of the past? Or grumpier, losing their marbles, "get-off-my-lawn" types? What do you see as you look around? How do you think others – family members, friends, store clerks, etc. – see you? And, to be honest, how do we see ourselves and our contemporaries? Come to the focus group and let's talk together. Judy is CL&L Executive Director, a retired qualitative researcher who conducted focus groups for over 40 years and wrote a book about the subject, *The Mirrored Window*.

**May 1**

### **Accidental Inventions, or Made by Mistake, with Meish Goldish**

Did you know that some of the world's most popular and useful inventions were created totally by accident? They include potato chips, the Popsicle, Coca-Cola, the Frisbee, the Slinky toy, X-rays, penicillin, blue jeans, Velcro, rubber, the microwave oven, Teflon, matches – even the World Wide Web (better known to computer users as www). The list is just about endless! In this class, you will learn the fascinating story behind everyday items that were made by mistake. But make no mistake – you'll be amazed by the unusual way each invention came about unexpectedly! Meish is the author of 500+ books, including *Oy Vey! A Yiddish Coloring Book?* for adults and has performed standup himself. Wrote for the television series *Shalom Sesame*, which first aired on PBS in 1986.

**May 8**

### **Give My Regards to Broadway: Vintage Views of Broadway's Golden Age, with Hy Mariampolski**

New Yorkers have been theater crazy for two centuries. Many theatrical experiences had their run on Broadway – plays (of course) and "spectacles," like those at the New York Hippodrome, Vaudeville, Revues, Burlesque. The 1920s were a special era for theater. The number of Broadway theater houses (80) and the volume of productions (264) both hit a peak in 1928. However, the release a year earlier of the first "talkie," *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson, signaled that Hollywood and the movies were about to become significant competitors.

Broadway hit back with quality and talent. American audiences after the First World War made their peace with George Bernard Shaw. With the support of innovators in Greenwich Village like the Provincetown Players and their leading voice Eugene O'Neill, a thoroughly American theatrical lexicon was being crafted. Bringing it all to the stage were some legendary acting talents like Ethel Barrymore, Uta Hagen, and the Lunts (Alfred and Lynn). Hy shows us some of his great vintage postcards from that era. A retired qualitative researcher and author of several books on ethnography, he is a collector and dealer of vintage postcards.

**May 15**

### **Understanding Dementia: What You Need to Know and Where to Go, with Marcia Henne**

Marcia, a program director at CaringKind, will discuss Alzheimer's disease and dementia: the early symptoms of memory loss, what to do and where to go when you notice these symptoms in yourself or others, and dementia caregiving. She will describe the stages of the disease, from early to late, and the importance of support when it affects you or loved ones. CaringKind is an organization with 40+ years of experience working with community partners to develop information, tools, and training to support individuals and families affected by dementia. The organization provides a helpline staffed with dementia specialists, individual and family consultations, a large network of support groups, education programs, early-stage services and a wanderer's safety program. Marcia's work in the field stems from her personal journey as a caregiver to her mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. This life-altering experience inspired her to shift her career focus towards supporting people living with dementia. BA, Business, Manhattan Community College.

**1:00-2:15pm**

**March 27**

### **Politics 2024, with Larry Geneen**

The 2024 major presidential candidates are set, well before their parties' official nominating conventions – meaning that it will be a long and intensely fought campaign. Both Donald Trump and Joe Biden face serious questions about their age. Trump's choice of running mate also stirs a lot of discussion and speculation. Trump faces several legal challenges, including a case on presidential immunity before the Supreme Court. Foreign policy, which usually plays a relatively small part in US politics, is now front and center with the Israel/Gaza situation, Ukraine and Russia. Both major parties have divisions on these key issues. What role will third party bids by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and possibly by other candidates play? What will happen with Congressional campaigns? Larry will discuss the key issues of the race, insights from polling, and other developments. He'll also focus on New York's Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams. Larry always encourages interactive discussions and welcomes student suggestions of topics to cover. He is a risk management consultant, former COO of the American Management Assoc., EVP of Johnson and Higgins.

April 3

**Women's History Month on Lillian Wald, Pioneer of Social and Healthcare Reform, with Paul Kaplan**

As part of Women's History Month, CL&L turns the spotlight on Lillian Wald, a social and healthcare reformer who pioneered two groundbreaking organizations: Henry Street Settlement and Visiting Nurse Service. Wald framed public health and nursing as a profession and ushered in the innovative solution of settlement houses. She began programs that are part of everyday life today, such as school lunches and nurses in public schools. Wald was adept at navigating the poorest and most densely populated neighborhoods, as well as the upper circles of society where she sought donors to support her efforts. A strong advocate for women's suffrage, racial integration, and worker's rights when these issues were not popular. Wald was called by Pres. Franklin Roosevelt "one of the least known yet most important people" of her time. Paul chronicles her many contributions in his award-winning book, *Lillian Wald: America's Great Social and Healthcare Reformer*. He is the author of 7 books, including *New York's Original Penn Station* (which he spoke about previously at CL&L), *Irving Berlin, New York in the Progressive Era*, *Jewish New York*, and *Jewish South Florida*. He has given nearly 90 talks nationwide. BA, Ethics, Politics and Economics, and MBA, Marketing and Strategy, Yale Univ.

April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 (5 sessions)

**Short Stories by Latin American Women: The Magic and the Real, with Pilar V. Rotella**

The well-known Chilean novelist Isabel Allende has said that writing a short story "it's like shooting an arrow. There is no second chance, it's a make-or-break proposition." The stories in this collection are like well-aimed arrows that hit important targets in their depiction of women's lives and women's role in patriarchal and often constrained conditions, whether by focusing on the common place and the everyday (*the real*) or on the unusual and the strange (the *magical* dimension of reality). Navigating between the poles of the magic and the real, these beautifully crafted stories offer an insightful view of complex issues regarding womanhood not only in Latin American society but in the world at large. Pilar is Professor Emerita at Saint Xavier Univ of Chicago. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at several universities and colleges, has authored numerous scholarly articles. MA, English and PhD Comparative Literature, Univ of Chicago.

Text: Celia Correas de Zapata, ed., *Short Stories by Latin American Women Writers: The Magic and the Real*

Syllabus: (All stories are available as pdfs, which will be provided in advance)

April 10 I. Allende, "An Act of Vengeance"

M.E. Llano, "In the Family"

April 17 R. Castellanos, "Culinary Lesson"



- M.L. Bombal, "The Tree"
- April 24 C. Lispector, "Looking for Some Dignity"  
R. de Vallbona, "Penelope's Silver Wedding Anniversary"
- May 1 E. Garro, "Blame the Tlaxcaltecs"  
R. Ferré, "A Poisoned Tale"
- May 8 M.T. Solari, "Death and Transfiguration of a Teacher"  
A.L. Vega, "Cloud Cover Caribbean"

**May 15**

**Aging Gracefully: Insights from a Physical Therapist, with Elizabeth McAneny**

We can't stop time, but with the right tools and lifestyle, we can live healthier and happier older years. In this session, Elizabeth will discuss misconceptions about aging, how to discern what is normal in the aging process, and when it's beneficial to seek the expertise of a healthcare professional. She'll outline and demonstrate the benefits of physical activity. Physical therapy can address many age-related challenges, including managing chronic pain and bladder leakage, and improving balance. There are practical tests to assess your physical functioning and exercises you can integrate into your daily routine at home. The goal is to empower you to take proactive steps towards maintaining strength, mobility, and independence. Whether you're navigating age-related challenges or seeking proactive measures for healthy aging, the talk offers guidance on empowering your later years. Elizabeth earned her doctorate of physical therapy from Columbia University and works on the Upper East Side at Zion Physical Therapy as a pelvic health and orthopedic physical therapist.

**2:45-4pm**

**March 27**

**Kids on Broadway, with Karen Valen**

Annie and Matilda and Billy Elliot have appeared on Broadway. There are many musicals featuring young actors on stage; and we'll see clips of young, talented performers in shows ranging from *South Pacific* to *The Secret Garden* to *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Even though Lucy and Linus were played by grown-up actors pretending to be kids, they'll still appear in this class. Karen has been attending theater regularly since 1954 when Mary Martin flew past her in *Peter Pan*, and she ushers both on and off-Broadway

**April 3\*, April 9, April 16, May 1\* (4 sessions : April 9, 16 on Weds; April 3, May 1 on Tues)**

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This course focuses on suspense thrillers and film noir, with four sensational films from Hollywood's most dazzling classics. Bobbie discusses each movie, shows its trailer and selected video clips, and the backstory of the production, director and stars. Session #1: *Mildred Pierce* (1945). This is the story of a hard-working, devoted mother, and her treasured but conniving daughter – who both become involved with the same double-dealing man. Starring Joan Crawford, Ann Blyth, and Zachary Scott, and directed by Michael Curtiz, it is a classic film noir, filled with fog and shadows and night scenes in the rain. For this extraordinary mystery/thriller, Crawford won the Academy Award for Best Actress for her spectacular performance. A mother for the ages! Session #2: *The Night of the Hunter* (1955), starring Robert Mitchum, Shelly Winters and Lillian Gish. Mitchum plays a diabolical preacher, who is really a psychotic killer, and one of the most memorable screen villains of all time. He marries and murders Winters, then mercilessly stalks her two young children, hoping to steal a small fortune left to them by their dead father. Gish is the guardian angel protecting the little ones. *Hunter* was the only film ever directed by actor Charles Laughton, and what a thrilling job he did! Session #3: *Notorious* (1946). Directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Cary Grant, Ingrid Bergman and Claude Rains, this film is a heart-pounding spy story and a heart-wrenching tale of love and betrayal. Two men vie for the same beautiful woman, but only one can win. Featuring the longest and arguably most sensual kiss in movie history, between Bergman and Grant, *Notorious* is set amidst a World War II espionage scheme. From Washington, D.C., to Miami, to Rio de Janeiro, the trap is set for the Nazis, but they have ideas of their own. Session #4: *The Most Dangerous Game* (1932). Starring Fay Wray, Joel McCrea and Leslie Banks. This film is only 65 minutes long, but packs an unforgettable punch. When his yacht sinks off the coast of a remote island, McCrea swims to shore, only to find an ancient and mysterious mansion and its most peculiar owner, Count Zoroff. Zoroff tells his guest of his interest in big game hunting, and what he calls “the most dangerous game” – his guests. He sets them free on the island, gives them a head start, and then hunts them down. Anyone who manages to elude him, goes free. But, so far, that has never happened. The chase is on, and the hunt starts at midnight! Bobbie asks that you watch the movies before class. They're available on Amazon and Apple. Bobbie was a writer and editor at *People* and *US* Magazines, and a researcher and producer at ABC, NBC, and CBS News. She's a lifelong lover of movies.

**April 10, 17, 24 (3 sessions)**

## **Makers of History XXII: American Presidents Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Richard Nixon, with Manfred Weidhorn**

This course revisits historic figures, showing that almost all are complex characters, with good and evil traits intertwined in varying proportions. Session #1: Teddy Roosevelt was a dynamo like no other POTUS, perhaps too much so for his own good. Session #2: Woodrow Wilson was an intellectual as POTUS, who preferred initially an academic life. He ventured out but with a reach that exceeded his grasp and suffered a deeply tragic fall – a devout soul and an

idealist who was defeated by the real world. Session #3: Richard Nixon was another ambitious person who achieved much but was undone, not by the wicked world like Wilson, but by his own personal demons. A Quaker, no less! Manny looks at the broader context of what these famous figures meant in their time and ours, recounting their history and impact with analysis and humor. Professor emeritus of English, Yeshiva Univ, has published a dozen books and 100+ essays on historical figures, cultural history, and the relationship between religion and science.

**May 15**

### **Using Our Minds to See Beyond Space & Time, with Alan Steinfeld**

Forty years of research at the Stanford Research Institute has proven consciousness is a non-local phenomenon. This means our minds have the ability to go beyond time and space as we know it. In this class, we will learn the history of what has been called Remote Viewing, a US government sponsored program to compete with the Russian psychic spying approaches. We will also learn the basics of remote viewing, which is using your mind to see and know what is beyond the five senses. Everyone has capacity to know anything about everything anytime. Alan will describe this process to increase awareness, and attendees will have hands-on practice to demonstrate for themselves their abilities to see and know beyond time and space limitations. We all can do this; the challenge is to get the small self out of the way. Alan has taught workshops on remote viewing online and throughout the world.

**THURSDAY**

**10:30-11:45am**

**March 28, April 4, 11, 18 (4 sessions)**

### **Election Law, Voting Rights, and the American Democratic System, with Leora Harpaz**

As the 2024 election gets closer with many people believing our democratic system is at risk, a look at major constitutional and statutory issues involving elections and voting seems timely. In these four classes, Leora will discuss major aspects of our electoral system including the Voting Rights Act, the constitutional and statutory treatment of gerrymandering, federal vs. state power in the regulation of elections, and other issues that define our democracy. Students will have an opportunity to make suggestions for topics that they would like to hear about in upcoming classes. Leora is professor emerita who taught constitutional law at Western New England Univ. School of Law; founded the annual Supreme Court Conference, where she has been a speaker for 20+ years. Since becoming an emerita professor, she has taught in the Political Science Dept., Hunter College, and in other senior learner programs.

**April 25, May 2, 9, 16 (4 sessions)**

## **Law in the Headlines: Exploring Current Legal Controversies, with Leora Harpaz**

It often seems that high-profile legal controversies are almost a daily occurrence now, making them lead stories in the news. Leora will discuss cases before the Supreme Court this Term involving important issues. A number of those cases in various ways focus on three areas of the law: the 2024 election, social media, and federal administrative agencies. The Court will have a chance to weigh in on issues related to Donald Trump's effort to regain the presidency, will have its first opportunity to decide how social media companies can be regulated, and will be able to continue its project of limiting the power of administrative agencies. Other important cases allow the Court to revisit the issues of gun restrictions and abortion. Students will have an opportunity to make suggestions for topics that they would like to hear about in upcoming classes. Leora is professor emeritus who taught constitutional law at Western New England Univ. School of Law; founded the annual Supreme Court Conference, where she has been a speaker for 20+ years. Since becoming an emeritus professor, she has taught in the Political Science Dept., Hunter College, and in other senior learner programs.

**1:00-2:15pm**

**March 28**

### **Bernstein Family Updates, with Jamie Bernstein**

It's been a busy time for Jamie and her family. They celebrated the release of *Maestro*, Bradley Cooper's film about the marriage of their father, Leonard, and their mother, Felicia Montealegre. Jamie recently participated in a podcast about Leonard's deep connection to Gustav Mahler – which circles the conversation back around to *Maestro*. In yet more *Maestro* connections: Mallory Portnoy and Nick Blaemire, the talented young duo who portrayed Bernstein's frequent collaborators Betty Comden and Adolph Green in the film, recently performed Comden & Green material at the Café Carlyle in NYC. Jamie and her sister Nina pitched in! And in Jamie's recent writing project, in which each chapter relates to one of her body parts, she focuses on Ears – which is actually her exploration of the experience of listening to music. Jamie is the author of the 2018 memoir, *Famous Father Girl*, and is a narrator, broadcaster, and filmmaker.

**March 27, April 4\*, 11\*, 18\*, 25\*, May 2\*, 9\*, 16\* (8 sessions, 7 on Thur, 1 on Weds)**

### **Politics 2024, with Larry Geneen**

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Ukraine and Russia. Both major parties have divisions on these key issues. What role will third party bids by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and possibly by other candidates play? What will happen with Congressional campaigns? Larry will discuss the key issues of the race, insights from polling, and other developments. He'll also focus on New York's Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams. Larry always encourages interactive discussions and welcomes student suggestions of topics to cover. He is a risk management consultant, former COO of the American Management Assoc., EVP of Johnson and Higgins.

**2:45-4pm**

**March 28**

**Upstate NY Christian Village Grapples with Modernity, with Richard Schiffman in Conversation with Judy Langer**

The story of this little-known religious community, the Bruderhof, was prominently featured in the Sunday *New York Times* recently. Richard, a journalist, spent weeks researching the story and visited two of the group's bucolic settlements in the Hudson Valley. A pacifist movement, it was founded during the 1920s in Germany and then expelled by the Nazis. They migrated abroad, ultimately settling in 26 communities on five continents. Today, about half of the roughly 3,000 Bruderhof are scattered across the world living in six villages. The Fox Hill community in Walden is just an hour and a half northwest of Manhattan. The group sees their communities as refuges from the materialism and inequities of the modern world, living simply and sharing their wealth. After the pandemic lockdowns, the Bruderhof were forced to revisit their longstanding mistrust of digital devices and online communication – a challenge for its members. *The Bruderhof Life: Few Phones, Some Beer* has generated both praise and some controversy. In this session, Richard will speak with Judy about how the story idea developed, the reporting and editing process, and how the piece was received by readers. The class will give some insight into how news content is developed and *The Times'* editorial process. This will be an open discussion with your questions and comments welcome. Please read the article in advance if possible. Here is a gift link to the article:

[https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/17/nyregion/hudson-valley-bruderhof-community.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.dU0.URCD.ZrWhSn4TrumK&smid=em-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/17/nyregion/hudson-valley-bruderhof-community.html?unlocked_article_code=1.dU0.URCD.ZrWhSn4TrumK&smid=em-share)

**April 4**

**Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the USA, with Rachel Slade**

This is a look at the story of manufacturing in America, asking if it can ever successfully return to our shores and why our nation depends on it. It is told through the experience of a young couple as they attempt to rebuild a lost industry, ethically. Ben and Whitney Waxman are tireless idealists attempting to do the impossible: produce an American-made, union-made, all American-sourced sweatshirt – an American hoodie. Ben spent a decade organizing workers in

Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin, fighting for Americans at a time when national support for unions had sunk to an all-time low. Struggling with depression and drug dependency, Ben lands back in his hometown of Portland, Maine, desperate to prove that ethical manufacturing is possible. He meets Whitney, a bartender wrestling with her own complicated past. They see a better future, a version of the American dream they can build together. *Making It in America* is a deeply personal account of one couple's quest to change the world. As they navigate private struggles, international trade wars, and a global pandemic, their story carries us across the nation and across time: cotton fields in Mississippi, NYC's hollowed-out garment district, a family-owned zipper company in LA to knit-and-dye factories in North Carolina. The book grapples with what "Made in the USA" really means to us today. It offers a unique look at global politics, economics, and labor through the story of textile manufacturing, keeping in mind that it was the demand for cheap cloth that sparked the industrial revolution and the brutality of the textile industry that first drove workers to organize. The Waxmans' quest tells us how our country got here, where we are now, and where we're headed through the people that produce the fabric of our lives. Rachel is an author, editor and journalist.

**April 11**

**Serving as Communications Director to the First Lady, with Elizabeth Alexander**

Jill Biden is America's first First Lady who continues to work outside the White House. A dedicated educator, she combines this with the important ceremonial White House role of First Lady, as well as her policy portfolio. In this critical year, she travels with her husband, the president, and on her own to meet with Americans, leaders and people of other countries around the world. Elizabeth Alexander, her Communications Director, previously filled a similar role with Joe Biden when he was vice president and US Senator. In this special session for CL&L, she'll talk about how she deals with the press during a highly challenging time, and her views of the media today.

**April 18**

**Love Later in Life, with Carol Hymowitz**

Longer lifespans are propelling more older singles to seek and form new love relationships. Whether they're widowed, divorced or have never been married, women and men in their 60s, 70s and older often have many years ahead of them. What's more, because of a surge of "gray divorces," there's a larger pool of older singles. But jumping back into dating requires not just risk taking but a willingness to tackle difficult questions – from whether to blend households and families to how to deal with finances. This course will explore how late love poses different challenges than relationships formed when young, with examples of a variety of older couples. Carol is an independent journalist and author who has served in leadership roles at *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg News* and *Forbes*. Her work focused on stories about business leaders, diversity, gender, and most recently about how longer lifespans are changing careers and lifestyles. Currently her work appears in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, *Next Avenue* and

other publications. Adjunct professor, creative nonfiction, NYU's Carter Institute of Journalism. Previously visiting scholar at Stanford Univ's Stanford Center on Longevity, reporting and writing about the longevity economy; editor at large at Bloomberg; founder, editorial director of *Forbes*

**April 25**

**Aging in Place: Staying in Your Own Home as You Age, with Dawn Wallace**

As we grow older with more physical limitations, many people consider the options of moving to a facility or staying where they are. An independent or assisted living facility offers a range of support services (at a price of course). But many of us would prefer to stay in the homes we've lived in, often for a long time. We know our neighborhood, some of our neighbors, staff in our building, stores nearby, public transportation, and so on. This session explores what aging in place means on a personal level. What are some factors to consider? What changes would you need to make in your home so you will feel secure? Have you ever been in a situation where you need to assist a family member in their home? Dawn will share her personal story regarding her mother-in-law. She'll focus on furniture, adapting your living space and bathroom trends. And she'll share some practical resources and checklists so your current home can meet your needs for aging in place. Dawn uses her background as a retired licensed clinical social worker, her current career as a home stager and interior decorator, mixed in with her personal experience as a caretaker and 55+ person who is actively making her own decisions about aging in place.

**May 2**

**Presidential Partners: Ready or Reluctant, with Richard Klein**

Since the US officially became a country, we've had 45 different presidents (Grover Cleveland was numbers 22 and 24). This has given us well over 50 First Ladies (or First Lady substitutes). All with different reactions to being thrust into the spotlight only the White House provides. Some could not wait to get in. Others gritted their teeth and counted the days before they could leave. Richard has some great stories to tell us – many tales of woe and just as many of triumph – involving a very diverse group of women. Each had a unique vantage point of the top job, the presidency. Richard is an amateur historian who has been fascinated with first ladies since he was a child.

**May 9**

**Working Longer/Older, with Carol Hymowitz**

Whether they have to or they want to, millions of Americans are working or seeking jobs beyond traditional retirement age. The reason is straightforward: A 65-year-old male today, in average health, has a 55% probability of living to age 85; a 65-year-old woman has a 65 percent probability. Yet more than half of Americans over 60 have no money set aside for retirement or insufficient funds to supplement skimpy Social Security payments. Luckily, in today's tight job market where not all employers are pushing older workers out the door, some can keep working in jobs they already have, or else find new work or start their own businesses. Many more – whether actors like Robert de Niro, US presidential candidates, non-profit executives and volunteers, therapists or entrepreneurs – don't want to stop working, even if they don't need the income. This course will explore how older Americans are seeking purpose or a paycheck as they age, and why their children and grandchildren need to prepare for 60-year-long careers. Carol is an independent journalist and author who has served in leadership roles at *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg News* and *Forbes*. Her work focused on stories about business leaders, diversity, gender, and most recently about how longer lifespans are changing careers and lifestyles. Currently her work appears in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, *Next Avenue* and other publications. Adjunct professor, creative nonfiction, NYU's Carter Institute of Journalism. Previously visiting scholar at Stanford Univ's Stanford Center on Longevity, reporting and writing about the longevity economy; editor at large at Bloomberg; founder, editorial director of *Forbes Woman* magazine and website.

**May 16**

### **Looking Back on the Year of the Yuppie, with Tom McGrath**

2024 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what *Newsweek* and the *New York Times* dubbed "The Year of the Yuppie." So, who were those "young urban professionals" who so dominated the culture? And what impact did they have? Tom returns to CL&L to give us a preview of his new book, *Triumph of the Yuppies: America, the Eighties, and the Creation of an Unequal Nation*, which will be published in June. He does a deep dive on 1984, talking about the political, social and cultural shifts that took place four decades ago that still resonate today. (He interviewed some of our students for the book!) Tom is an award-winning writer and editor, who spent more than a decade as editor of *Philadelphia* magazine; in 2022 he was named Writer of the Year at the National City & Regional Magazine Awards.