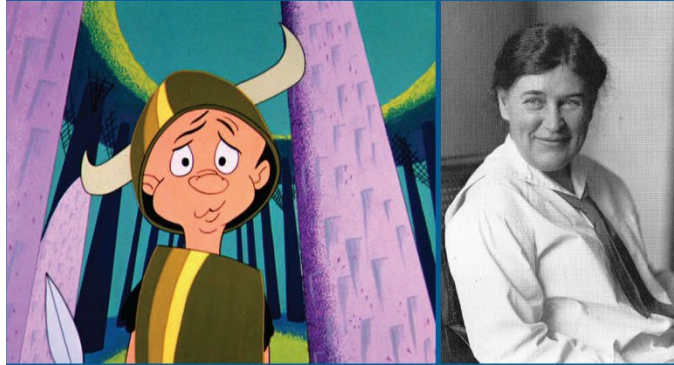


# JOIN US!



## SPRING 2024

ONLINE REGISTRATION  
AVAILABLE TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

[renesan.org](http://renesan.org)

## **Class Descriptions & Presenter Biographies**

## Archeology

### Jericho: The World's Oldest City, Then and Now/William Tabbernee



ARCH S24-01-Z

1pm-3pm

April 2

\$25

Engage in armchair travel to Tell es-Sultan, the site of ancient Jericho, arguably the world's oldest fortified city, which has recently been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the archaeological remains and history of the city from its Neolithic origins through its Canaanite, Egyptian, Israelite, British, Palestinian, and Israeli settlement until its present-day occupation in the West Bank. Discover whether Joshua really "Fit the battle of Jericho," and whether the wall truly came "Tumblin' down," and what the political context of the city is currently.

William Tabbernee (Ph.D., Litt.D., D.D.) specializes in the archaeology of the ancient world. Former President and Stephen J. England Distinguished Professor of the History of Christianity at Phillips Theological Seminary, Dr. Tabbernee has published more than a hundred scholarly articles and over a dozen books.

### Mummies: The How and Why We Have Them/Maria Ostendorf Smith

ARCH S24-02

10am-12noon

April 16

\$25

The natural and deliberate mummification of humans provides a singular window into the world of the past by preserving the actual participants of that culture. The course is a worldwide survey of the how and why of mummified humans who were variably exalted, sacrificed, murdered, or simply cases of serendipitous preservation.

Dr. Maria Smith is a Professor Emerita of (biological) Anthropology at Illinois State University. Her research expertise is in human paleopathology (health, trauma, chronic disease) as it relates to the understanding of extinct cultures. She has taught the course subject matter to university students for over thirty years.

## Art

### Caring for Your Valued Papers, Books and Photos/Lois Olcott Price

ART F23-01

1pm-3pm

Feb. 15, 22, 29; March 7

\$90

Family papers and photos, a valued art collection, the etching from your grandmother's hall that now hangs in yours, and well-used rare and vintage books – all speak of family and memories we value. But caring for these treasures can be a challenge. This course, offered by a professional conservator, will explore how these objects are made, the factors that threaten them, and strategies for their safe handling, stabilization, and storage. The first class will discuss how and why paper-based materials deteriorate and introduce standard preservation and storage methods. Each of the three following classes will explore a single type of material in-depth – paper, books, and photographs. The small class size will allow the examination of book, paper and photograph examples and storage materials. Handouts with vendor supply lists and information resources will be provided by the instructor. The later part of each class will consist of case studies and discussion. Objects belonging to participants will be used for case studies as we problem-solve together to find the best preservation strategy.

Before retiring from the Winterthur Museum and moving to Santa Fe, Lois Olcott Price cared for collections of cultural institutions for over 40 years. During her career, she routinely led conservation clinics that allowed members of the public to submit their treasures for assessment and preservation advice. She looks forward to providing preservation information to the Santa Fe community.

### Behind the Scenes in Art Conservation/Lois Olcott Price

ART S24-02

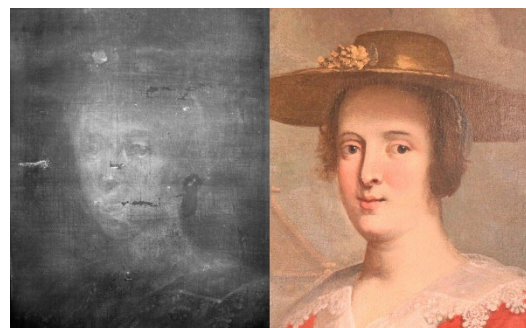
1pm-3pm

Feb. 5

\$25

Art conservation is seen by most as a combination of preservation and restoration used by art conservators to fix things, but they wonder how conservators decide what an object needs and what processes they use. The answers to these questions have changed with time, developing technology, and a growing appreciation of cultural context. Conservators must ask if we value a particular piece primarily for its physical and aesthetic attributes, or because it somehow embodies the culture that made and used it. Or both. We often cannot divorce an object from the culture that created it and from its role, past, present and future, in that culture. These questions become particularly poignant in a non-Western context.

Using visual examples, this presentation will discuss the evolution of art conservation from its 19th-century European and American roots, the role of new analytical tools, and the adaptations Western attitudes and techniques have made as the conservation of cultural heritage has become an increasingly international discipline. Governments have recognized the critical role preservation of material culture plays in healing and reuniting cultures and communities that have suffered trauma and conflict, leading conservators into distressed communities, war zones, and disaster areas.



*See above class for presenter biography.*

### If I Knew Where I Was Going, I'd Be Lost/Ron Pokrasso

ART S24-03

10am-12noon

March 27

\$25

People always ask about my process: "Do you plan things out?" "Do you have an image goal in mind?" My answer to most of their questions is "If I knew where I was going, I'd be lost." This lecture/demonstration sheds light on some of the mysteries behind the creative process and reveals many of the spontaneous moments that tend to spark creative endeavors. It includes a brief question-and-answer session followed by a printmaking demo on-site as I create mixed-media work on paper.

Ron Pokrasso, artist and educator for more than 40 years, received his M.F.A. degree from Pratt Institute. He's an originator of the printmaking event "Monothon" and has been an ardent supporter of arts programs for youth. Pokrasso is known to be instrumental in helping to push students to break barriers.

### Building Georgia O'Keeffe's Legacy/Cody Hartley

ART S24-04-H

10am-12noon

March 5

\$25

How do you reimagine and celebrate the legacy of an American icon? The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum is building a new 55,000 square foot facility in downtown Santa Fe to achieve three powerful goals: a new and innovative museum worthy of the finest art, civic revitalization, and a deepened commitment to



Northern New Mexico. Museum Director Cody Hartley will share insight into the past, present, and future of the O’Keeffe Museum as it works to ensure her legacy and place in the story of American art while making a positive impact within the region.

Dr. Cody Hartley brings over two decades of experience as he leads the O’Keeffe Museum’s \$75M campaign to build a new facility in Santa Fe. Hartley earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History from the University of California, Santa Barbara, following undergraduate study at the University of Wyoming.

### **Conversations: Engaging Ethiopian Iconography/Bonnie Hardwick**

ART S24-05	10am-12noon	Feb. 22	\$25
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The history of Ethiopian Christianity and the accompanying religious iconography will be explored through a digital presentation of archetypal images as well as the instructor's interpretation of them in contemporary icons. Parallel development and examples among Northern New Mexican retablos will also be discussed.

Bonnie Hardwick has over 25 years of studying and creating religious icons, with 12 years of research, travel, and practice relating to Ethiopian Coptic iconography. In 2022 she had an exhibition at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California, featuring her work in Ethiopian religious iconography.

### **History of the Water Prayer Project and the Totem Sculpture Work of Doug Coffin/Doug Coffin**

ART S24-06	1pm-3pm	March 13	\$25
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Internationally known sculptor, painter, and mixed-media artist Doug Coffin, a Native American of Prairie Band Potawatomi and Creek descent, will discuss his artwork and an incipient project which he hopes to install in multiple world locations. In addition to discussing his current and past works, he will present the history of his Water Prayer Project, originally designed for the Santa Fe Plaza, as it relates to New Mexico and to other countries.

Internationally known sculptor, painter and mixed media artist Doug Coffin, a Native American of Prairie Band Potawatomi and Creek descent has been a professional artist for over 50 years. He received a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas and an M.F.A. from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Coffin has been an artist in Santa Fe for 45 years.



### **The Family Photograph in Art/Alex Traube**

ART S24-07	1pm-3pm	April 11	\$25
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This course will survey the role of family photographs in preserving memories, affirming personal relationships, commemorating special occasions, and in doing so, creating significant bodies of artwork. The talk will discuss the lifelong work of Alex Traube, as well as his upcoming “New Mexico Families” project as artist-in-residence at the New Mexico Museum of Art Vadem Contemporary in June 2024.



Other photographers whose work will be featured include Sally Mann, Nicholas Nixon, Emmet Gowin, Harry Callahan, Carrie Mae Weems, and Mike Desfarmer.

Alex Traube has worked as a creative photographer for more than fifty years. Much of his work addresses family histories and images. His photographs are in the permanent collections of museums in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. He was a National Endowment for the Arts fellow and a recipient of an Illinois Arts Council grant. He has master's degrees from Ohio University and IIT/Illinois Institute of Technology. In 1997, he founded New Mexico CultureNet, an educational and cultural organization. He has taught at the University of New Mexico, Santa Fe Community College, Santa Fe Prep, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Louisville's Center for Photographic Studies.



### Tour of Collections at the Indian Arts Research Center

ART TOUR S24-08      1pm-2:30pm      Feb. 8      \$30

Participants will take a guided tour of the collections at the Indian Arts Research Center (IARC), a division of the School for Advanced Research (SAR). The goal of IARC is to bridge the divide between creativity and scholarship by supporting initiatives and projects in Native American studies, art history, and creative expression that illuminate the intersections of the social sciences, humanities, and arts. This tour will explore IARC's extensive collections, which include gorgeous pottery, paintings, baskets, jewelry, and other artworks focused on the Native American Southwest region. This breathtaking collection is a treasure, one of the best-kept secrets in Santa Fe. Please note: RENESAN does not provide transportation or carpool support for tours and trips.

The tour will be led by one of the Indian Arts Research Center's trained docents.

### Tour of Collections at the Indian Arts Research Center

ART TOUR S24-09      1pm-2:30pm      March 28      \$30

*See Art Tour S24-08, immediately above for the event description.*

## CULTURAL EVENTS & STUDIES

### *The New Yorker*: Fact or Fiction/K. Paul Jones

CE S24-01-Z      1pm-3pm      Feb. 13, 27; March 12, 26; April 9      \$115



Join lively in-depth discussions of articles from *The New Yorker* chosen and led by class participants. *The New Yorker*, with its wide variety of current topics, lends itself to thought-provoking conversations. This course usually covers one work of fiction and one nonfiction article in each session. Poetry, cartoons, or covers can also be selected. Add your voice, views, and insights. Copies of articles will be made available for those who need them. K. Paul Jones organizes the volunteer leaders. Course sessions are held every other week beginning Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

After retiring from higher education, K. Paul Jones (M.I.A., International Relations, Columbia; Ph.D., Modern European History, University of Wisconsin) has taught for RENESAN since 2007.

### **Found Under a Parking Lot: Richard III, the Deformed King We Love to Hate/Kristin Bundesen**



CS S24-01

10am-12noon

April 10

\$25

The recent release of the book *The Lost King*, about the 2012 discovery of Richard III's bones in a car park, inspires this presentation about how we vision and revise history through the centuries, reminding us that history is very much alive even when the subjects are very dead. New popular culture representations inspire further investigations into the last of the medieval English kings.

Kristin Bundesen is Associate Dean for the School of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Studies at Walden University. She founded the Southwest Mississippi Center for Culture & Learning at Alcorn State University and is on the Advisory Board of the National Institutes for Historically Underserved Students. She earned her doctorate from The University of Nottingham.

### **The Origins of Florence: The Beautiful City of Art/Linda Sassano Higgins**

CS S24-02

1pm-3pm

Feb. 6

\$25

Join Linda Sassano Higgins, a licensed Italian tour guide, and step back in time to discover the origins of the glorious Renaissance city of Florence. Everywhere you look, you see the evidence of her beautiful artistic masterpieces, but as you walk her cobblestone streets, the history of her origins lies directly beneath your feet, from the mysterious Etruscans to the Roman city of "Florentia" to the violent, dark period of the Tower Houses. Together, we will explore the very foundations on which this beautiful "City of Art" was built.

Linda Sassano Higgins received her B.S. in Anthropology (University of California), M.Ed. in Child Development (Tufts University), and a degree in Art (Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art), and became a Licensed Italian Tour Guide in 2016. She lives in Santa Fe and returns to work four months a year in Florence, the Beautiful City of Art.

### **Donkeys, Dervishes and the Borderline: An American in Pre-Revolutionary Iran/Steve Horowitz**

CS S24-03

1pm-3pm

March 6

\$25

Most Americans hold a negative and narrow view of Iran based on conflicts with the U.S. and the current repressive regime. However, Iran has a rich culture and history. This course will introduce you to the geography, culture, and languages of Iran based on my years living there as a Peace Corps teacher. My experience of the culture and people will be reflected through readings from my first-person stories, photos, and artifacts.

Steve Horowitz was a Peace Corps teacher in Iran from 1968 to 1971. He has an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language and 23 years' experience as a teacher and program director at Central Washington University.

## **The Flag, The Cross, The Family Station Wagon: What Happened, Boomers?/Allen Stone**

CS S24-04

1pm-3pm

March 20, 27

\$45

By virtue of our numbers, when Baby Boomers graduated from high school and college in the late 1960s and 1970s, we looked ready to take over the world. What happened to everything? To our idealism? To the function of our government? To the lack of a religious/spiritual component in many of our lives? To our lost dreams for ourselves and our country? Now many of us are just grumpy old folks who rattle off more things that we hate than we like about the world we are slowly handing off to our children. Our source book will be Bill McKibben's *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened*.

Born in 1946, the dawn of the Baby Boom, Allen Stone is an award-winning journalist, a recipient of the prestigious Dupont-Columbia Award for his work on the 40th anniversary of the J.F.K. assassination. Allen covered this era at the beginning of a career that spanned print, radio, and television journalism. He and his wife Mary moved to Santa Fe and are extremely excited to be a part of the community. Allen covered the baby boomer generation while living through it himself.

## **Buildings to Match the Beliefs: How the Sacred Spaces We Shape Also Shape Us/Talitha Arnold**

CS S24-05

3:15pm-5:15pm

Feb. 6, 13, 20

\$70

"Buildings to Match the Beliefs" focuses on how faith, theology, spirituality, and even politics have shaped the sacred architecture of diverse religious traditions, from synagogues, mosques, and churches to Pueblo kivas and African American brush arbor revivals. In turn, our built sacred spaces also shape us — our understandings of the Divine, our relationship to others, and the rest of creation. We'll explore some of those diverse traditions across the ages to better understand, in the words of William James, "The variety of religious experience."

Talitha Arnold (M.Div., Yale Divinity School; B.A., Pomona College) has been Pastor at United Church of Christ for 42 years. She has lectured with RENESAN, Berkshire Choral Festival, Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus, Muslim Mental Health Institute, and other organizations. She also has a cat and a dog, and a sister who was the first woman board-certified veterinary surgeon in the U.S. and the first woman dean of any veterinary college in North America.

## **Acequia Madre House Tour & Discussion: Focus on Traditional Northern New Mexico Crafts/Liza MacKinnon**

CS TOUR S24-06

3:15pm-5:15pm

April 2

\$30



Tour the historic family home of three generations of pioneering Santa Fe women — Eva Fényes, Leonora Curtin, and Leonora Paloheimo—and learn about its current role as the home for the Women's International Study Center. Fényes, who came to Santa Fe in the 1880s, was an astute businesswoman and visual artist; her daughter Leonara Curtin was a widely recognized ethno-botanist; her daughter, also named Leonora was a linguistics scholar of Indigenous languages and a founder of Santa Fe's Native Market. Today the house is the home of the Women's International Study Center, which provides residential study fellowships for women in the arts, sciences, cultural preservation, or business.

This event includes a tour of the property and a meeting and discussion with Liza MacKinnon, a self-taught visual artist who specializes in creating three-dimensional, half-size historic costumes from paper. She says, “Whether my pieces speak of LGBTQA+ rights, our oligarchical military complex nation, or illuminating astounding women from history, recycled books, maps, letters, and photos merge to reveal complex stories and history. Each dress provides a beautiful silhouette from a distance and then reveals covert details up close.” MacKinnon’s WISC project involves working with AMH archives to inspire new paper art.

### Acequia Madre House Tour & Lecture: Focus on Women Architects of Santa Fe/Cristina Dreifus Serrano

CS TOUR S24-07      3:15pm-5:15pm      May 7      \$30

*See class description immediately above for information on Acequia Madre House and the Women’s International Study Center.*

This event includes a tour of the property and a meeting and discussion with Cristina Dreifus Serrano, a professor at two schools of architecture in Lima, Peru. Her project as WISC fellow centers on the role of women in the construction of architectural identity at the beginning of the 20th century, with a special focus on Peruvian Indigenismo and New Mexican Pueblo Revival Architecture.



### Talking Cloth and El Mago: Oaxacan Indigenous Fashion/Eric Mindling

CS TOUR S24-08      3:15pm-5:15pm      May 6      \$25

This visually stunning presentation is a journey into traditional Oaxaca and the living world of Indigenous community fashion. Eric Mindling spent two years photographing the ancestral dressways of the villages of this Mexican state. During this journey he searched for an understanding of the different meanings this clothing carried. While much of the symbolic meaning woven into traditional clothing has been lost, in a far corner of Oaxaca Eric met a man called El Mago, The Magician, who still held the knowledge of the symbolism in clothing of that region. What El Mago spoke of is a fascinating insight into the cultural richness that once prevailed in the clothing throughout indigenous America. Eric will share these stories and other ways that traditional clothing speaks of the people who wear it. **PLEASE NOTE:** The class takes place at the Living Threads Studio, 1610 Lena St. in Santa Fe. *RENESAN does not provide transportation or organize carpools for tours.*

Fine art documentary photographer, author, and entrepreneur, Eric Mindling has written two books that share insights into traditional knowledge: *Fire and Clay*, *The Art of Oaxacan Pottery*, and *Oaxaca Stories in Cloth*. He co-created the first-ever traveling exhibition focused on the potters of indigenous Mexico. Eric lives in Santa Fe, is co-owner of Living Threads Studio, and a board member of the International Folk Art Market.



## FILM

### Film Discussion 2024/Kathy Adelsheim

FILM S24-01

10am-12noon

February 7, 14, 21, 28; March 6

\$115

Watching favorite films and discussing them with a small group of film lovers — what could be better? For each session, we choose a film, usually an independent, foreign, or documentary film. Participants view the film at their convenience and attend class prepared to discuss it. Class discussions involve critical thinking and in-depth analysis. The instructor prepares the discussion outline, provides background materials, and moderates the conversation. Access to each film is independent and not provided by course fees.

Kathy Adelsheim (Master's in Education, University of Minnesota) has worked extensively in adult education and is a trained group facilitator. She teaches bridge privately and for Santa Fe Community College.

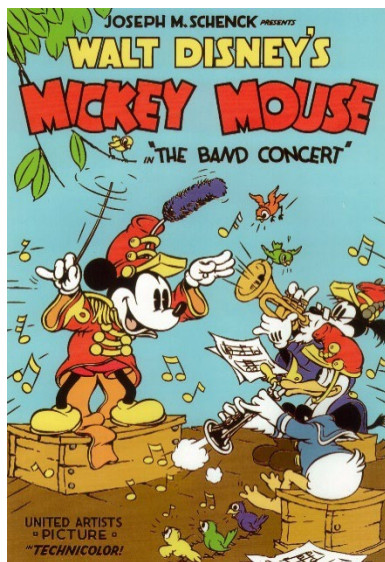
### Opera-toon-ity: Opera Classics in Classic Cartoons/Mark Tiarks

FILM S24-02-H

1pm-3pm

May 8

\$25



The 1950s and 60s were “The Golden Age” of opera cartoons, with Bugs and Elmer doing battle in “The Rabbit of Seville” and “What’s Opera, Doc?” But opera made its first appearance in animation with “Mickey’s Opry House” in 1929, accelerated during the 1930s and 40s, and continues today in many episodes of *The Simpsons*. Mark Tiarks explores this rich history, illustrated with video excerpts from the above titles as well as “The Band Concert,” “Mickey’s Grand Opera,” and “All the Great Operas in 10 Minutes.” We’ll also take a peek at Disney’s “Willie the Whale Who Sang at the Met,” about a uniquely talented sperm whale who can sing arias, duets, and trios all by himself, hear Woody Woodpecker’s breakneck rendition of opera’s most famous patter song, and check out “Margical History Tour,” a *Simpsons*’ send-up of the film *Amadeus*.

Mark Tiarks’ arts career includes serving as Director of Strategic Planning and Marketing for the Santa Fe Opera, General Director of Chicago Opera Theater, Producing Director of Chicago’s Court Theatre, and Artistic Administrator of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. He is also a highly sought-after audience member for NBC late-night comedy shows from Rockefeller Center, mostly because he’s a very loud laugher.

## Great Comic Moments in Cinema/Bud Cox

FILM S24-03

10am-12noon

March 11, 18, 25

\$70

It is no secret that we love a good laugh. No matter age or cultural background, laughter is the ultimate escape. It has even become a multi-million-dollar industry with the efforts of filmmakers invested in the chuckles and guffaws of their audience. We will explore the notion of comic genius within the following diverse films: *City Lights*, *Ball of Fire*, *The Apartment*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, and *Punch-Drunk Love*. We will discuss the unadulterated (and oftentimes adulterated) humor generated from the idiosyncratic, yet brilliant minds of the filmmakers presented here: Chaplin, Hawks, Wilder, Kubrick, and Allen.

William "Bud" Cox has taught literature and film, along with art history and music history, for more than 46 years and remains deeply enthusiastic about teaching. Recent RENESAN courses include *Robert Altman's Nashville: An Enduring Metaphor for America* and *American Voices and American Vistas: Emily Dickinson, Charles Ives, John Ford, and Paul Thomas Anderson*.



## HISTORY

### Jews and the Arab World/Ron Duncan Hart

HIS S24-01

10am-12noon

Feb. 8, 15

\$45

Jews and Arabs have long lived together in the Middle East, and they share common historical and linguistic origins. Islam and Judaism overlap in significant ways. In this course, we will explore that centuries-long history that has been more coexistence and collaboration than conflict. Although conflict has dominated the last century, the Abrahamic Accords have created new paths toward coexistence that have traditionally marked the relationships between these two peoples. Israel has always had significant roots in the Arab Middle East and then has become more so in recent years. Popular culture in Israel today has turned increasingly toward the Arab roots of the large Mizrahi Jewish population of the country.

Ron Duncan Hart, Ph.D., is a cultural anthropologist at Indiana University with postdoctoral work at the University of Oxford. He is a former Dean of Academic Affairs and has written on Jews and the Arab World and on Sephardic Jews. Hart has been an invited lecturer for universities across the U.S.

### Not Your Parent's History: Diversity, Pop Culture, and Wokeness/Kristin Bundesen

HIS S24-02

10am-12noon

April 8

\$25

As universities come to grips with their own assumptions and blind spots, and education becomes a battleground for culture wars, it can only help to draw our attention to the long history of diversity and the, shall we say, "spirited" debate it arouses. It is especially relevant in a time of rising nationalism which depends on promoting a selective version of history, a version that lacks diversity. Yet drawing our attention to the history of diversity and inviting investigation could not be more timely. This lecture will ask: Is history factual, or just another form of fiction? Are there distinct boundaries between the two, or just extensive borderlands?

Kristin Bundesen is Associate Dean for the School of Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Studies at Walden University. She founded the Southwest Mississippi Center for Culture & Learning at Alcorn State University, and is on the Advisory Board of the National Institutes for Historically Underserved Students. She earned her doctorate from The University of Nottingham.

### **Hitler and Stalin: Parallel Studies in Tyranny/K. Paul Jones**

HIS S24-03-H

1pm-3pm

Feb. 21, 28

\$45

Although Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin never met, they were the twin demons of the 20th century. They were responsible, for different reasons and in different ways, for more violent deaths than any other rulers in history. This course will examine similarities and differences as we interweave their personal histories to understand how they came to power, established and consolidated their dictatorships, and how/why they tried to spread their ideological missions across the continent and globe.

After retiring from higher education, K. Paul Jones (M.I.A., International Relations, Columbia; Ph.D., Modern European History, University of Wisconsin) has taught for RENESAN since 2007.

### **France Divided, 1936-45/Mark Davis**

HIS F24-04-H

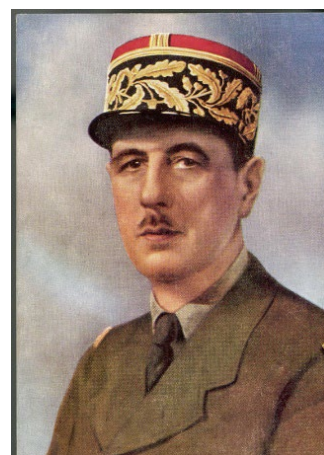
10am-12noon

Feb. 29; March 7

\$45

France in the 1930s was divided by class, politics, and culture. Nationalists on the right protested democratic norms and were influenced by the growing strength of dictators in Germany, Italy, and Spain. Midway through the decade, with a nod from Moscow, parties on the left united to form the Popular Front to oppose fascism. The Popular Front gained power and left an imprint but lasted little more than a year. With the fall of France in June 1940, the right-wing Vichy government collaborated with its German occupiers until the Allied military victory in 1945 restored democracy. The course explores four aspects of the period: the triumph and defeat of the Popular Front; the influence of the movement on culture, especially on what film historians call the Golden Age of French Cinema; the preference of American foreign policymakers for Vichy over de Gaulle; and the 1945 treason trial of Philippe Petain, the head of the Vichy State.

Mark Davis, a Maryland lawyer for 38 years, has taught nine RENESAN courses on 20th-century history and law.



## **Paine Matters: Unyielding Champion of Reason and Equality/Richard Briles Moriarty**

HIS S24-05-Z

10am-12noon

Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27

\$90

While change rarely has one cause, Thomas Paine mattered. Before Paine, the norm was pyramidal societies claiming divine right through foundations clouded in mystery. Demolishing those assumptions, he ignited a worldwide demand for republics grounded in written constitutions. Before Paine,



“democracy” connoted anarchy and mob rule. He transformed “democracy” into a viable governance model and expressed the goal of most countries today. Before Paine, nations became allies to oppose other nations. He foresaw republics proliferating worldwide and associating to pursue peace and commerce. Before Paine, reformers favored arcane writing displaying their erudition and elitism. He labored to communicate to everyone “in language as plain as A, B, C.” Join our journey exploring Paine's complex and consequential life and work, a complete revision of Rich’s 2020 RENESAN course.

Richard Briles Moriarty, after a 42-year legal career, is focusing his studies during retirement on his long-time fascination with Thomas Paine. Through intervening research and much deeper digging, he has completely revised the content of his Spring 2020 RENESAN course on Paine. Moriarty is a frequent RENESAN presenter.

## **Renaissance Humanism and the Birth of Modern European Culture/Patrick McDaniel**

HIS S24-06

1pm-3pm

April 16, 23, 30

\$70

Renaissance humanism, with its emphasis on freedom, human dignity, virtue, progress, and education, permeated all aspects of European life and gave birth to the culture of modern Europe. Articulating an interlocking set of ideals and writing during a period of crisis arising from wars, plague, famine, and religious conflict, humanists such as Petrarch, Erasmus, Marsiglio Ficino, Thomas More, and Lorenzo Valla rejected arid medieval scholasticism and created an educational system for the new world of the emergent social world. The course will examine the lives, thoughts, and ideals of key humanists and show how the humanist tradition formed the basis of European education through at least the mid-twentieth century. Finally, we will briefly discuss the contemporary “wars” over the humanities and the usefulness of the humanities in educating people for life.

Patrick McDaniel (Government B.A., University of California, Santa Cruz; History M.A., University of Michigan; J.D. University of New Mexico) has taught high school and college, is the founder of McDaniel Law Firm, and has taken courses and written papers on American constitutional history and law.

## **LITERATURE**

### **The Art of the Memoir and Why I Wrote Mine**

LIT S24-01

1pm-3pm

Feb. 12

\$25

Following the COVID-19 lock-down, there was an enormous increase in published memoirs. It’s been argued that the pandemic not only gave people time, but also more opportunities for introspection, and the memoir was a natural outlet. But how is a memoir different from an autobiography? And what are the different types of memoirs? The first part of my lecture will consider the memoir as a literary genre.



In it I'll discuss both famous and infamous memoirs of the past and present. During the second hour, I'll explain how and why I wrote my recently published memoir, *Spanish Connections: My Diplomatic Journey from Venezuela to Equatorial Guinea*. I'll share what I learned about myself and my diplomatic career in the writing process.

Ambassador Mark L. Asquino is a retired foreign service officer. During 2012-2015, he served as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Spain's only former colony in sub-Saharan Africa. Mark earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from Brown University. Before entering the foreign service, he taught American literature courses.

### **Nikolai Gogol: *Dead Souls*/Robert Glick**

LIT S24-02-H

1pm-3pm

April 10, 17, 24

\$70



Russian literature is renowned for numerous beloved masterpieces, such as the novels of Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, or Turgenev. But the writings of Nikolai Gogol (1809 - 1852), whom all of these later novelists would have credited as a major influence on their work, are not well known in the West, despite Dostoyevsky's purported statement: "We all come out from Gogol's 'Overcoat.'" Gogol's magnificent satirical novel *Dead Souls* (1842) tells the story of Chichikov, a Russian provincial con man who builds his fortune by buying up the souls of dead serfs (who remain on the government tax rolls until the next census) and amasses a fortune in mortgageable human, though ghostly, assets.

Robert Glick, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (French, German, Russian, and English) has taught 19th and 20th-century Realist novels for many institutions (including RENESAN) for the past 50+ years.

### **Faulkner: *The Unvanquished*/Shelly Cook**

LIT S24-03

1pm-3pm

March 5, 12, 19

\$70

Where should one start studying Faulkner? I say first read his short stories and/or *The Unvanquished*. Some scholars say that this short novel is a collection of seven short stories. I agree but would add that it has a novel's narrative flow and character development as well as the author's iconic themes, making it a great transition to his later work. It provides a framework of the Yoknapatawpha lore and gives a history of the Sartoris and Snopes clans. Starting with childish hijinks and moving to deadly, morally dubious actions, Faulkner builds an arch of rankling conflicts in *The Unvanquished* that continue to bedevil our nation. I will be using *The Unvanquished* by William Faulkner, Vintage Books, 1966 as the primary text and supplementary research from *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* by Joseph Campbell, Bollingen Series, Princeton, 1949.

For 35 years, Shelly Cook (B.A. and M.A. in Literature, Master of Theological Studies, and doctoral work in Irish Literature) taught students from pre-school to college. She finished her career as a national writing and literature consultant, presenting primarily to teachers for The College Board and Louis Educational Consulting.

## **“The Case of the Enduring Detective”: Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian Mystery/John Lawrence**

LIT S24-04-Z

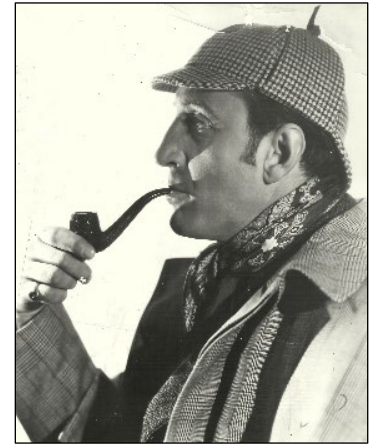
3:15pm-5:15pm

Feb. 22

\$25

Nearly a century since the publication of the last of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Holmes canon – the 56 short stories and four novels – the world’s first consulting detective, Sherlock Holmes, remains perhaps the most enduring figure in fiction. The subject of books, radio and television series, film and stage, Holmes has captivated generations of readers in every era and every location on the globe. What is it about this enigmatic, cerebral, emotionless sleuth that explains his singular popularity over nearly a century and a half?

John Lawrence is the author of *Sherlock Holmes: The Affair at Mayerling Lodge* (2023), which has been reviewed and praised as “an absolute delight” and “a worthy addition to the Holmesian Apocrypha,” as well as *The Undiscovered Archives of Sherlock Holmes* (2022) and numerous short stories, all built around an actual historical event or personage. A Ph.D. historian (University of California, Berkeley) and U.S. House of Representatives senior staffer, he also is the author of *Arc of Power: Inside Nancy Pelosi’s Speakership 2005-2010* and *The Class of ’74: Congress After Watergate and the Roots of Partisanship* (2018).



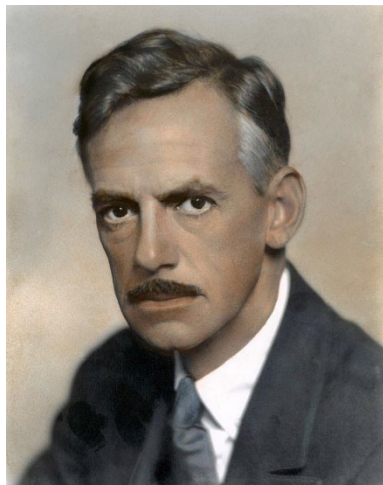
## **Aeschylus and O'Neill in Conversation—With a Guest Appearance by Jorge Luis Borges/Randy Perazzini**

LIT S24-05

3:15pm-5:15pm

March 26; April 2, 9, 16, 23

\$115



It is said that bad poets borrow, but good ones steal. We'll keep that in mind as we read and discuss the *Oresteia* of Aeschylus (first performed in 458 BCE) over the first two classes and Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra* (first performed in 1931 CE) over the next two classes. The last class will be spent discussing issues of influence, borrowing/expropriating, and the effects of context — issues at the center of Borges' story "Pierre Menard, Author of Don Quixote," which we will also read and discuss.

Randy Perazzini (B.A. in English literature, University of Chicago; Ph.D., Cornell) has taught for 29 years, primarily in Mexico City, St. John's College, and for more than a decade at RENESAN. His most recent class at RENESAN was Melodies of Fate: Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore*.

## Two Colonial Fictions: *Heart of Darkness* and *A Passage to India*/Edward Walkiewicz

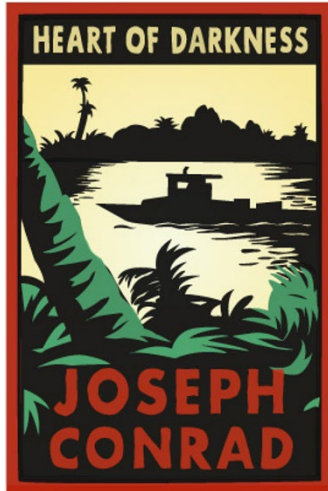
LIT S24-06

3:15pm-5:15pm

March 4, 11, 18, 25

\$90

Joseph Conrad and E. M. Forster were undoubtedly two of the most important British writers of the Modern period. In two of their best-known works of fiction, both extremely rich and well-wrought texts, they depicted and critiqued European colonialism. In his controversial novella, *Heart of Darkness* (the basis for the film *Apocalypse Now*), Conrad exposed and explored the nature and dehumanizing consequences of the Belgian colonization of the Congo Free State, evoking but ultimately dissolving the civilized/savage binary. Forster's Orientalist novel depicts life in India under the British Raj from the viewpoints of both the British colonizers and native Moslems and Hindus, finally questioning whether even the most well-meaning individuals can rise above long-standing cultural differences. Both texts repeatedly dramatize the failure of Europeans to accurately, objectively see, let alone understand, places and peoples viewed as exotic. As we closely analyze the narratives, we will discuss the ways in which the authors present characters whose public and private roles are prescribed by their ethnicities, religions, genders, and classes or castes. We also will examine the writers' craftsmanship, especially their manipulation of point of view and their use of imagery and descriptions of setting.



Ed Walkiewicz was educated at Yale, Columbia, and the University of New Mexico. He is a Professor Emeritus of English and the former holder of an endowed professorship. He has offered ten different classes for RENESAN and has taught Conrad's and Forster's fiction to both undergraduates and graduate students.

## Willa Cather and the American Southwest/Garrett Peck

LIT S24-07

10am-12noon

May 1

\$25

Willa Cather was at the height of her career as a New York magazine editor when she abruptly quit in 1912 at age 38 to write fiction. That year she made her first of six trips to the American Southwest, visiting Arizona and New Mexico just as these two territories became states. In this course, we'll explore how Cather's Southwestern travels inspired three of her novels: *The Song of the Lark* (derived from her 1912 trip), *The Professor's House* (inspired by her trip to Mesa Verde, Colorado in 1915), and her "best book" (her words), *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, which she researched and wrote during her 1925 and 1926 travels to Taos and Santa Fe with her partner Edith Lewis.



Garrett Peck is an author, historian, and tour guide in Santa Fe, specializing in adventure travel and historic and cultural interpretation. He leads the Willa Cather's Santa Fe tour, among others. The author of eight books about American history, Garrett's latest is *A Decade of Disruption: America in the New Millennium*. He is currently working on a book about how Willa Cather wrote *Death Comes for the Archbishop*.

### Willa Cather Walking Tour/Garrett Peck

LIT TOUR S24-08      10am-12noon      May 2      \$30

On this 2.5-hour walking tour, we'll explore how author Willa Cather was inspired to write her "best book" (her words), *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, by retracing her steps through Santa Fe in 1925 and 1926. We'll gather at the Plaza opposite La Fonda, the hotel where Cather and her partner Edith Lewis stayed during their visits. Cather has become an LGBTQ+ icon since the publication of her letters in 2013, and during this experience, we will read from her letters, interviews, and articles, in addition to seeing historic footage of Santa Fe. Our walking route covers about 1.5 miles, mostly on sidewalks, but also climbs a hill to the Cross of the Martyrs with its outstanding view of the city below. During our time together, we'll explore aspects of the novel, such as Kit Carson, Padre Antonio José Martínez, and of course Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy, New Mexico's first Catholic archbishop and the real-life inspiration for the fictional Bishop Latour in Cather's book. We will learn about Sister Blandina Segale, who helped set up a hospital in Lamy's house, and visit the last remnant of Lamy's six-acre garden behind the St. Francis Cathedral in the peaceful Stations of the Cross Prayer Garden. **Please note:** RENESAN does not provide transportation or make carpool arrangements for tours.

See listing immediately above, *Willa Cather and the American Southwest*, for the presenter's biography.

## MUSIC

### An Exploration of Mozart's Requiem, His Last Work and His Last Words/Thomas O'Connor

MUS S24-01-H      10am-12noon      April 18      \$25

In 1791 the 35-year-old Mozart was in a difficult place. He was short on cash, he was ill, and he feared that he was dying. In early July "an unknown, gray stranger" approached Mozart with a commission to write a Requiem (a mass for the dead). Mozart threw himself into the project, but on December 5th he



died without having finished the work. With audio samples and commentary, this class will explore Mozart's Requiem and discover why it remains one of the most extraordinary and beloved works of all time. There is also an opportunity to hear live performances of Mozart's Requiem, conducted by Thomas O'Connor, on April 27 and 28, 2024 at the Lensic (tickets purchased through Santa Fe Pro Musica).

Thomas O'Connor is the co-founder, interim executive director, conductor laureate, and former principal oboist of GRAMMY-nominated Santa Fe Pro Musica. He has also performed professionally as an oboist with orchestras and music festivals from Switzerland to Canada and across the United States.

### Santa Fe Opera 2024 Season/Mark Tiarks

MUS S24-02-H      1pm-3pm      April 8, 15, 29; May 6, 13      \$115

This class offers an in-depth introduction to each opera in the Santa Fe Opera's 2024 season — Verdi's *La Traviata*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*, and the world premiere of *The Righteous*. Each session includes extensive video or audio excerpts, a wealth of visual imagery, and a behind-the-scenes look at the opera's gestation. Participants will learn the answers to questions including: Why was *La Traviata* the biggest flop of Verdi's later career? When did



theatrical versions of the Don Juan legend go from being farcical to deeply serious? Who was the mysterious German count who had an enormous impact on *Der Rosenkavalier*? Why are elixirs of all kinds referred to as snake oil?

Mark Tiarks' arts career includes serving as Director of Strategic Planning and Marketing for the Santa Fe Opera, General Director of Chicago Opera Theater, Producing Director of Chicago's Court Theatre, and Artistic Administrator of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. He has won multiple national and state awards for his feature stories, performance reviews, and analytical articles on nonprofit governance in *The Santa Fe New Mexican*.

### The 1960s British Music Invasion/Dick Rosemont

MUS S24-03      3:15pm-5:15pm      March 21      \$25

Popular RENESAN presenter and musicologist Dick Rosemont will take you on a journey through the 1960s British music invasion. Once the Beatles broke the floodgates, the U.K. artists who followed in their wake continued to shake up the musical landscape. The presentation includes numerous photos and music examples that will have you dancing in your seat.

From an early age, music has been a part of Dick Rosemont's life. Encouraged by his father, who played in big bands in the 1930s, Dick formed his first rock band in suburban Detroit in 1963. He has produced and hosted radio programs on both public and commercial stations. His music articles have appeared in various publications. After 48 years, he still buys and sells record albums, now here in Santa Fe as The Guy in the Groove.



Steven Ovitsky recently retired after 20 seasons as executive director of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. His previous positions include president and CEO of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, vice president and general manager of the Minnesota Orchestra and artistic/executive director of the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago.

### Unforgettable: Jazz Interpretations of the Great American Songbook/Bruce Johnson

MUS S24-05                      10am-12noon                      April 2, 4, 9, 11                      \$90

Compositions penned in the early 20th century by the Gershwin brothers, Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hart, and Harold Arlen were written specifically for the Broadway stage, musical theater, and Hollywood musical films. Jazz artists later adapted the most enduring of these songs. This course traces the evolution of selected show tunes by these composers from initial conception to renditions performed by contemporary jazz musicians. Consider, for example, the Rogers & Hart song "The Lady Is a Tramp," written for the 1937 Broadway production of *Babes in Arms*. It was first captured on vinyl that same year, and this recording serves as our starting point. The song was destined to become a hard-swinging staple of the big bands and combos from the mid-1930s, and it remains today a staple of jazz sessions and record dates. Four hundred sixty-seven versions of the song have been recorded, including Frank Sinatra's 1974 rendition and the 2011 version by Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga.

After 50 years spent on college campuses, Bruce retired to Santa Fe and joined the RENESAN family in 2016, first as a student and later as an instructor and board member. His avid interest in jazz evolved from an introduction to the saxophone at age eight. His background includes a stint as an "underaged" member of a regional dance band and high school summers devoted to composition and orchestration while exploring the southern California jazz scene. His previous RENESAN courses include Visualizing Jazz — The Art on the Cover and the Music Inside; Orchestral Jazz (I and II), which covered notable band leaders, musicians, and arrangers who survived the Swing Era's collapse; Diggin' Dave: Celebrating Brubeck at 100; and most recently, California Cool — The People, Sights, and Sounds that Defined West Coast Jazz.

### The Piano Music of George Gershwin - A Lecture + Recital/Jacquelyn Helin

MUS S24-06                      1pm-3pm                      April 18                      \$35

George Gershwin's popularity has often obscured his genius; Gershwin is a singular American composer, someone who managed to write jazz-inspired popular and classical music in a new American vernacular. Almost a hundred years after his death, Gershwin's music lives on in countless performances of songs and works like *Rhapsody in Blue* or *An American in Paris*. He also lived a glamorous and cosmopolitan life, interacting with all the musical and theatrical greats on both sides of the Atlantic before his untimely death at the age of 39. In this next of her popular series of lecture-recitals, Steinway artist Jacquelyn Helin plays the solo version of *Rhapsody in Blue*, the Piano Preludes and selections from the popular *Gershwin Songbook* — Gershwin's personal favorites from the many songs he composed and arranged for the "above-average pianist." Along the way, she'll share lots of great anecdotes about Gershwin by such people as Oscar Levant, Maurice Ravel, Nadia Boulanger, Arnold Schoenberg, Paul Whiteman, and Alexander Woollcott.





Steinway Artist Jacquelyn Helin has played solo, concerto, and chamber performances in many of the renowned musical venues in the U.S. and Europe. An active performer, she has appeared locally with all of Northern New Mexico's great musical institutions. She is well-known for her performances of American composers such as Copland, Thomson, Barber, and Gershwin. She holds a B.Mus. from the University of Oregon, an M.A. from Stanford University and a D.M.A. from The University of Texas at Austin. This is the ninth of her annual and extremely popular Renesan lecture-recitals.

### **The Development of the Piano: A Lecture + Recital/Joe Illick**

MUS S24-07

3:15pm-5:15pm

May 9

\$25

Perennial Renesan favorite Joe Illick will take you on a musical journey from his piano. This lecture + recital will trace the piano from its origins to its modern form, illustrated by repertoire. We will explore how technical advances in the piano building helped shape the music that was written for the instrument.

Joe Illick (Royal College of London, double degree in Piano and Composition) is a pianist, conductor, and composer. His conducting positions include opera companies in Fort Worth, Shreveport, Pittsburgh, and Miami. His compositions include song cycles, operas, and instrumental works. He has participated in hundreds of popular lectures, radio programs, television broadcasts, and informal talks on classical music, composing, and opera to audiences all over the US and Europe.

### **A Magical Journey Through Four-Hands Piano Music: A Lecture + Recital/Kyunghoon Kim & Elizabeth Yao**

MUS S24-08

3:15pm-5:15pm

March 14

\$25

Playing piano duets is an artful, intimate, and fun music-making activity; however, the value of duets is quite often overlooked. The primary objective of this course is to introduce a few selections of piano-duet music written for children and to invite everyone to join in the musical journey that will bring you back to your memories of childhood. To make our journey more meaningful, the details of each piece – its external relationship with literature, art, and stories, as well as the way the internal musical ideas are construed and constructed by the composer – will be presented in the lecture, followed by the performance. In this course, you will experience the musical magic that composers created with seemingly simple ideas through the intimate journey of the piano ensemble.

Kyunghoon Kim and Elizabeth Yao completed their doctoral degrees in piano performance and literature at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where they are currently on the faculty. The Kim and Yao piano duo recently won the silver medal at the Ohio International Piano Duet & Duo Competition.

## Beethoven's 9th Symphony: Great Singers and Conductors of the Past/Ifan Payne

MUS S24-09

1pm-3pm

April 25, May 2

\$45

The final concert of the Santa Fe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus during their current 40th anniversary season will feature a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony. This course consists of an audio-visual presentation that will compare audio and video excerpts of the interpretations of the 9th Symphony by great conductors and singers of the past from 1921 to the present. It will provide an insight into the way interpretations of this great symphony have changed over the last 100 years and will provide an opportunity to hear famous orchestras, conductors and singers of the past.



Ifan Payne (B.A., Welsh School of Architecture; Ph.D., University of London) has written extensively on sound recording and reproduction, music, and the performing arts in the U.K. and the U.S. His record reviews have been published in *The American Record Guide*, *The Absolute Sound*, *HiFi News/Record Review* and the *Journal of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections*. His reviews and music articles have appeared in the *Kansas City Star*, *Manhattan Mercury*, *Western Mail*, and *Welsh Music*. Payne has appeared on radio and television arts programs in the U.S. and the U.K. and hosted weekly music programs on KSAC & KKSU.

## SCIENCE

### Anatomy You Can Use: The Skeletal System/Bob Hinton

SCI S24-01

10am-12noon

March 6, 13, 20

\$70

How well does your skeleton work for you? As we age, damage to and degeneration of the skeleton can occur, reducing its structural integrity and impairing movements occurring at our joints — the junctions where our bones come together. In this course, we will learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the building blocks of the skeletal system — bone, cartilage, and connective tissue. Together we'll embark on a tour of the skeleton, exploring different types of joints (some you have never heard of!). We'll examine why the structure of important joints (such as knee, hip, spine, shoulder, TMJ) renders them susceptible to injury or gradual degenerative changes. Bonus topic: how the skeleton is used in human identification (gender, age, ancestry). Come learn about your body!

Bob Hinton received a Ph.D. in biological anthropology from the University of Michigan, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in head and neck growth and development. For over 30 years, he taught human anatomy and other subjects at Baylor (now Texas A&M) College of Dentistry to dental, dental hygiene, and graduate students. This is his sixth presentation for RENESAN.



## Artificial Intelligence — The Good, the Bad, and the Future/Creve Maples

SCI S24-02

3:15pm-5:15pm

Feb. 8, 15

\$45

The term "artificial intelligence" was coined in the 50s. Its fuzzy objective was to build machines at least as smart as humans. The initial boom, in both expectations and funding, focused on everything from



speech recognition to visual/image interpretations, to simple robots. But for almost 50 years very little progress was made. It was said that AI was the wave of the future, and always would be. Everything changed around the turn of the Millennium. We stopped trying to teach computers how to think and let them learn on their own. Machine Learning was born, and the field of AI exploded. Today AI software is changing all aspects of technology, society and our personal lives. This class will explore the development of AI, its successes and failures, how it "works" and "thinks," and the consequences for our future. As one example, we will examine its frightening use in China to control people. Like fire, AI has the potential to

benefit us or destroy us, and it isn't clear who's steering this boat.

Creve Maples holds a Chemistry B.S. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and a Nuclear Science Ph.D. (University of California, Berkeley). He has worked in both academia (Head of both the Advanced Computer Architecture Lab at Lawrence Berkeley Lab and the Synthetic Environment Lab at SNL). In the private sector he was Chief Scientist at Vitesse Electronics and C.E.O. of MuSE Technologies. His history and archeology interests led him to form companies active in these areas. His RENESAN classes result from scientific curiosity, love of photography and travel, and desire to explore unusual, thought-provoking topics.

## Evolutionary Medicine and Women's Health/Wenda Trevathan

SCI S24-03

10am-12noon

March 14

\$25

Evolutionary medicine incorporates research and perspectives from multiple disciplines within the social, behavioral, and medical sciences. This presentation will discuss how this perspective can be used to understand many of the health challenges women face today. The specific focus will be on reproduction, including puberty, sexuality, pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause. The presenter proposes that many of the health challenges faced by women today result from a mismatch between how their bodies have evolved and the contemporary environments in which modern humans live. The talk will shed light on the power and potential of examining the human life course from an evolutionary perspective, and how this could improve our understanding of women's health and our ability to confront health challenges in more creative, effective ways.

Wenda R. Trevathan is Regents Professor (Emerita) of Anthropology at New Mexico State University and a Senior Scholar at the School for Advanced Research. She is a co-editor of two collections of works on evolutionary medicine and authored the book *Ancient Bodies, Modern Lives: How Evolution Has Shaped Women's Health*.

## Summer Weather Outlook and Climate Change Update/James Kemper

SCI S24-04-H

10am-12noon

March 19, 26

\$45

New weather information is flooding the news as we grapple with the changes and the commitments to mitigation attempts. After we review the weather for this past winter, we will look at the weather picture for the summer. El Niño is expected to continue this spring, but we'll have to see what to expect for the summer monsoon if it does continue. We'll also look at the constantly changing climate picture for the globe and the Southwest.

James Kemper (M.S., Meteorology focused on numerical weather prediction, Florida State University) worked for the National Weather Service for 39 years. In this work he spent 17 years in Washington, DC, doing numerical modeling research forecasting severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, and two years leading forecasting centered on marine, aviation, agriculture, and public warnings. For 16 years he managed the Alaska Region forecast operations, tsunami warning program, science program, and training program.



## A Blaze of Knowledge: Community-Driven Wildfire Management/Alyssa Mineau

SCI S24-05

3:15pm-5:15pm

April 3

\$25

Community cohesion is pivotal to wildfire management in the wildland-urban interface (WUI), where natural landscapes intersect with human communities. In these areas, the risks associated with wildfires are particularly acute, as they threaten both property and lives. Community cohesion becomes a powerful tool for mitigating these risks. When residents in WUI areas are closely connected and have a shared commitment to wildfire preparedness, they are more likely to collaborate effectively in implementing preventative measures, early detection, and coordinated responses. Cohesive communities can establish defensible space, maintain clear evacuation plans, and facilitate communication and mutual support during wildfires. In the WUI, community cohesion serves as the first line of defense against the forces of wildfires, offering resilience and protection to both people and their properties.

Originally from Northern California, Alyssa has a deep connection to fire ecology and management, as her home has been affected by wildfires throughout her life. She has a Master of Science in Forest Resources and is the Fireshed Coordinator for the Forest Stewards Guild.

## Biohacking the Brain — Explore Exciting New Research and Tips to Protect Your Most Valuable Asset/Sloan Johnson

SCI S24-06-H

10am-12noon

April 3

\$25

Exciting new studies about the brain are published often, yet it can take years for new research and discoveries to trickle down to your health practitioner's office. Some of this research is very valuable in helping to prevent and even reverse early cognitive decline. Learn about some of the exciting advancements in neurological science, and some tips and tricks for improving quality of life at home.

Sloan Johnson's background is the functional medicine approach to health care with a keen interest in the relationship between physiology, the brain, and quality of life. She was a clinician at LLNH in Sausalito and Hong Kong. She is a longtime member of Homecoming For Veterans, which provides neurofeedback

sessions free of charge. She ran the Chorten Gonpa Monastery Free Clinic in Gangtok, Sikkim, for a decade. In 2016 she developed and manufactured equipment to treat the large refugee population in Europe. She has contributed to peer reviewed published research studies, books, and has co-authored the *Parents Guide to Brain Health* for a California peninsula-based school system.

### **The Mycelial Internet, Mushrooms, and Mycoremediation of the Earth/Jesse Boudreau**

SCI S24-07

1pm-3pm

Feb. 7, 14

\$45

In this course, we will explore the chemical and electrical web of mycelium that connects trees, plants, insects, and animals to the health of the soil and the vibrancy of the life cycle of the forest. We will also delve into the way fungi can be used to bio-remediate toxic and industrial pollutants. Additionally, we will cover the panoply of health benefits provided by functional mushrooms as well as the cognitive and mental health benefits of psychedelic mushrooms.



Jesse Boudreau is a permaculture designer and instructor as well as an herbalist. He has been intensively studying mushrooms since he started his first business cultivating culinary mushrooms for the Santa Fe Farmers Market. Jesse has been foraging wild mushrooms since the age of 10 and with his wife, Johanna, he has been teaching mushroom foraging classes for about 10 years. In his work as a permaculturalist, he has been working to improve the health of soil with indigenous microorganisms and fungi for a period of about 20 years.

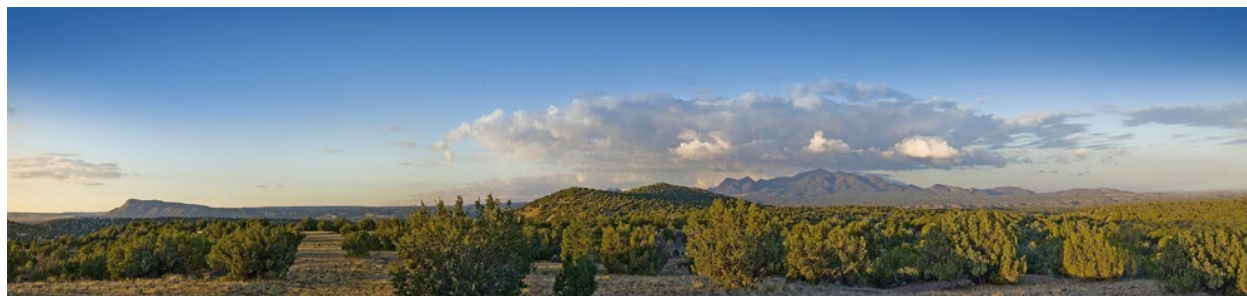
### **Galisteo Basin: A Geologic Tour/Albert Shultz**

SCI TOUR S24-08

10am-12noon

April 25

\$30



The Galisteo Basin, south of Santa Fe, is familiar for its place in Native and Southwestern history. But what about its landscapes and geology? This driving tour will feature roadside stops with vantage points to see evidence of mountain uplifts, volcanic activity, and erosional topography. The story touches on the retreat of the sea, the evidence for a vanished intermontane basin, and the ore deposits that led miners to the areas around Cerrillos and Madrid. **NOTE: This is an active driving tour beginning in Lamy and ending in Cerrillos.** Students will independently drive to three different lookout points for orientation by the instructor. Detailed instructions will be provided before the trip. Students may park in the RENESAN parking lot to form carpools, but RENESAN cannot facilitate the formation of carpools or share student contact information.

Born and raised in the Santa Fe area, Albert Shultz (Ph.D. in Geology, Indiana University, Bloomington) worked in the petroleum industry for 24 years in subsurface interpretation, geologic modeling, and stratigraphy. He has taught geology to undergraduate and graduate students. Besides exploring rocks, Shultz enjoys watching birds and studying the stars.

## Theater

### Commedia dell'Arte: The Italian Theater before Opera/James Paul Ivey

THR S24-01-H

1pm-3pm

March 4, 11

\$45



The Commedia dell'Arte dominated the Italian theater during the 16th century as professional players developed and refined improvised scenarios through the characters of Arlecchino, Pantalone, and Dottore. Commedia's influence would proliferate throughout the European theater and our popular culture to the present day. The course will be presented in two parts, starting with an historical examination of the form showcasing the central characters, situations, performers, and troupes. A second session will demonstrate how the performance style influenced opera, visual art, film, dance, and theater in the 19th and 20th centuries. Both sessions will utilize lectures with a PowerPoint presentation, film clips, and practical demonstrations. Participants will gain a deeper appreciation of Commedia's universal influence on artistic expression and its pervasiveness in the arts.

Dr. James Ivey is a retired professor of theater with degrees from the University of Kansas, University of Illinois, and Texas Tech University. He has trained in the commedia dell'arte at the Scuola Internazionale dell'Attore Comico in Reggio-Emilia, Italy, and the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theater.

### An Actor's Life: Panel Discussion/Aaron Leventman

THR S24-02-H

3:15pm-5:15pm

April 8

\$25

Moderated by local performer, producer, and writer Aaron Leventman, professional actors from various backgrounds and levels of experience will discuss the craft of acting in all its many forms. Topics will include the difference between acting for film and theatre, early inspirations and muses, past training, and local opportunities. We will also touch on the business side of the field including agents, managers, social media marketing, and auditions. Finally, we will cover the many other forms of creativity and industries that actors are involved in, including teaching, producing, writing, voice-over work, and directing, to represent the multi-faceted life of an actor. A question-and answer-period will follow the panel discussion and brief video clips from the panelist's work will be shown.

Aaron Leventman was formerly the head of programming for the Santa Fe Film Festival, the curator for the premiere event of the Albuquerque Film and Media Experience, and the producer of the Bioneers Moving Image Festival. He has an M.F.A. from Columbia University's screenwriting program and is an actor who has appeared in many feature films, shorts, and industrials as well as theatrical productions. He is also a published playwright whose works have been performed all over the U.S. Aaron has taught film history, screenwriting, and acting at the Santa Fe Community College and RENESAN.



## TRIP

### Evening Under the Stars/Jim Baker

TRP-S24-01

7:30pm-9:30pm

March 1

\$30

Each semester RENESAN presents its star party, where students tour the night sky using both the naked eye and telescopes. These star parties take place at the leader's home near Eldorado, where we will be out of the worst of Santa Fe light pollution. We aim the telescopes at any visible planets and several deep-space objects: galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters. We also identify the major constellations and the first magnitude stars visible that evening. As March 1 approaches, participants will be sent directions to the viewing site as well as instructions on how to prepare for the evening. If clouds blot out the stars on March 1st, we will try again the next night, March 2nd.

Jim Baker has been an amateur astronomer since age eight. A dedicated umbra chaser, he has observed five total and one annular solar eclipse. For RENESAN, he has offered an Evening Under the Stars trip each semester since 2015 (except during the COVID years), taught a beginner's astronomy course three times, and lectured four times on various topics in astronomy.

**Please note:** The star party occurs on ONE night only. It will occur on March 2 ONLY if the weather cancels out the March 1 event. Students should leave both March 1 and March 2 open on their schedules. Cancellation refunds will only be issued if both dates are incompatible with stargazing. RENESAN does not provide transportation or make carpool arrangements.