American Democracy and the Road Forward
Now that the election and the fight about who really won is finished, what is the road forward? How do we heal a divided nation? Will democracy as we know it be forever tainted with the divisions, conspiracy theories and mistrust? Journalist and media advisor to both parties, Julian Phillips examines the issues and provides insights into the questions many Americans and the world are asking.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Jan 5 1 session

Julian Phillips, three-time Emmy Award winner, nine-time nominee. Journalist, talk show host, author, political analyst/advisor. Currently news anchor fill-in for the Steve Harvey Morning Show on local NYC radio stations. On Point with Julian, news and current events geared towards the African American community and Chillin’ in the Kitchen with Julian, a weekly cooking show with standard and original recipes, both on Youtube.com. Advised national and local political leaders of both parties. Served in Congress as a Communications Director. Certificate of Merit, Honor Legion, and Honorary Chief of Personnel, NYC Police Dept. BA, Radio-TV-Film, Purdue Univ.

Modern Life in the Modern City: Art in New York 1900-1945
Come take a fresh look at New York City through the eyes of some of America's greatest artists who were endlessly inspired by the city. Their exuberant depictions of the city's people and places collectively tell the visual story of New York's charge into modernity, while also sharing intimate details of daily life.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Jan 12 1 session

Rena Tobey, American art historian. Teaching experience includes NYU School for Professional Studies, 92Y, and Southern Connecticut State Univ. Her research and writing centers on American women artists working before 1945. Rena provides museum tours and talks around the region and, just for fun, created Artventures! Game, a "cheeky party game on the adventures of art and art history." MA, Art History, Hunter College; PhD, Human and Organizational Studies.

Unmasking COVID-19: Dealing with the New Non-Normal
Do you know what hides behind your mask? Diana Nash, a mental health counselor, has a theory. She’ll discuss the emotions that lie behind the pandemic masks we now must wear, and how we harbor feelings of anxiety and depression while grieving our loss of identity, lifestyle, and expectations. Finding ways to cope is especially important as the pandemic drags on and on. Yes, we must cross a lot of bridges to restructure our lives as we prepare for the new non-normal; but it will arrive. She believes we must meet it armed with hope and new energy. In this session, she’ll demonstrate coping skills to deal with this invisible enemy.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Jan 19 1 session

Diana Nash, grief therapist for 15 years, MA Counseling Psychology, NYU Bereavement concentration, licensed mental health counselor, and thanatology faculty award-winning adjunct professor and scholar. Teaches “Death and Bereavement” at Marymount Manhattan College. Published “A Facebook Lesson for Churches” in The Christian Science Monitor, interviewed by CBS News as a grief expert, presented “Grief in America” at Moscow State Univ. in Russia, after the 9/11/2001 tragedy.
At the intersect of language and culture, we observe how language changes to meet the evolving needs of its speakers. Today, as our society moves toward a more inclusive view of gender, from transgender to gender fluidity, the lowly third-person pronouns have drawn the nation’s attention. This session will look at current and past practices and changes in English pronoun use.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Jan 26 1 session
Cindy Mercer (she/her/hers) teaches writing and speech at Marymount Manhattan College and is Coordinator of Events and Special Projects, linguist by training and passion. Has written articles on the changes in preposition use in English, the nature of bilingualism, and developmental English instruction. PhD, Slavic languages, Indiana Univ., Bloomington.

On Being a Hospital Chaplain During the Pandemic
Fr. John Maria Devaney, OP (Order of Preachers) from the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York, will join us for a firsthand account of his experience working on the frontlines of the pandemic in the city during spring 2020. From the first week of March up until the reopening of the city during Phase 1 on June 22, Fr. John worked as a chaplain in the hospitals of the Upper East Side as COVID-19 began to explode. During this time, he and fellow friars accompanied the suffering and dying patients, along with distraught families and exhausted medical personnel, to face the impact of the virus and offer comfort and consolation.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Feb 2 1 session
Fr. John Maria Devaney, OP of the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of NY. BA, Communications, Emerson College.

Shock, Horror! Why Do We Love Disaster and Scary Movies?
This two-part course looks at both disaster and horror movies to ask why it is that we like to be frightened and shocked. Session 1: Disaster movies became popular during the early 1970s. As big-budget spectacles, movies such as *Towering Inferno* and *Earthquake* racked up audience tension with themes related to a sense of impending doom, while restating the need for heroes. In what evolved as a formulaic structure in the 1970s, heroic protagonists challenged corruption, then rallied people to fight together for survival when disaster struck. This presentation will also look at how the disaster sub-genre has been revisited over the years. Session 2: Horror movies have had a lasting appeal from the days of silent cinema. Alfred Hitchcock, the master of suspense, maintained that we are conditioned from infancy to derive pleasure from being scared. As we shall see in class, Hitchcock’s *Psycho* marked a transition from far away monsters to something within and closer to home. This presentation will examine different types of horror movies and assess how we, as viewers, react to them. Clips will include classics such as *Nosferatu* and *Psycho*, as well as more recent movies.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Feb 9, 16 2 sessions
Robert Hensley-King, film scholar and writer. Currently based in Toronto, he has taught at Harvard Univ., Boston College, and in Europe at Sheridan College, Ghent Univ., and Birkbeck College – Univ. of London. Recent academic publications include Incarceration as a Dated Badge of Honor: The Sopranos and the Screen Gangster in a Time of Flux and The Irishman: An Extended Review. He has also been an independent filmmaker and broadcaster.

Four Memorable Musicals That Changed Broadway: Showboat, Oklahoma, Company, Rent
We will discuss how each of these transformational musicals introduced concepts that offered new insights into musical theater. From Hammerstein and Kern’s *Showboat* in 1927 at the Ziegfeld Theatre, Broadway musicals continue to evolve, every generation bringing ground-breaking artists onto the scene. There will be some musical clips from the shows.

Tue 10:30-11:45a Feb 23 1 session
Poetry for Pleasure in the Winter
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'll discuss these works' emotional truth; unity of expression; and attention-holding, pleasure-providing use of language.

Tue 1:00-2:15p  Jan 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23  8 sessions

Barry Wallenstein, professor emeritus of Literature and Creative Writing at the City Univ. of New York. Author of ten collections of poetry, most recently in 2020, Time on the Move and Tony’s Blues (a bilingual book published in France); At the Surprise Hotel and Other Poems (2016); Drastic Dislocations: New and Selected Poems (2012). Barry is also an editor of American Book Review.

The Art of the Novella
The novella has been variously defined as either a long short story or a short novel. It is a recognized literary genre favored by many distinguished authors across the centuries. The works chosen for this course represent the “art of the novella” at its best, as practiced by three well-known Latin American writers: Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia), Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), and Clarice Lispector (Brazil). These writers manage to compress the richness of a potential novel within a narrower and more limited framework. In these three texts, brevity is a virtue and a significant narrative achievement. We’ll read and discuss Márquez’s, Leaf Storm; Llosa’s, Who Killed Palomino Molero?; Lispector’s, The Hour of the Star. Read about half of Leaf Storm for the first day of class. Note: All three texts can be found at many online bookstores.

Tue 2:45-4:00p  Jan 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 23  6 sessions

Pilar V. Rotella, PhD in Comparative Literature, Univ. of Chicago. Taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Saint Xavier Univ., Univ. of Chicago, Sarah Lawrence College, Chapman Univ.; continuing education at Univ. of California-Riverside, Marymount Manhattan College and NYU.

Freedom of Expression and "Cancel Culture"
What is "cancel culture," how does it operate, and has it succeeded in shutting down unpopular views, as many critics claim? In this course, we will explore these and other questions concerning the so-called “cancel culture.” We’ll read and discuss selections from John Stuart Mill’s On Liberty, as well as contemporary examples from both the left and the right of the political spectrum. These include Max Boot’s "Conservatives Have a ‘Cancel Culture’ of Their Own," the successful effort to prevent conservative scholar Dr. Charles Murray from speaking at Middlebury College, and the firing of Col. Alexander Vindman from the National Security Council for testifying truthfully about President Trump’s conduct regarding Ukraine.

Tue 2:45-4:00p  Feb 9, 16  2 sessions

Sandy Kessler, PhD, Political Science, Boston College. He taught political theory and American political thought at North Carolina State Univ. for 41 years, taught in North Carolina State’s OLLI Lifelong Learning program for five years, wrote a book on Tocqueville’s understanding of religion and democracy, edited an abridged version of Tocqueville’s Democracy in America, co-edited a source book entitled American Debates on Sexual Equality, has written many articles on religion and modern political thought.

WEDNESDAY

What Do You Think?, Discussion
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.

Wed 10:30-11:45a  Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24  8 sessions

Bill Goldman has led current events discussion courses at SUNY New Paltz and Bard Lifelong Learning Institute. Retired foreign service officer, U.S. Agency for International Development USAID, managing international assistance for public health programs, worked and lived in seven countries overseas for 30 years. BS, Mathematics, Case Western Reserve; MSc, Demography, London School of Economics.
C’mon, Get Happy: Upbeat Songs of Broadway
Put on a happy face, your Sunday clothes, and put a shine on your shoes (and a melody in your heart). And those are just three cheerful songs from Broadway musicals. There are many more to lift your spirits and put a smile on your face.

Wed 1:00-2:15p Jan 6 1 session

Karen Valen, see bio above.

Creative Writing Workshop
This course is based on the belief that everyone can write. A variety of prompts are given that offer wide room for interpretation. They will stimulate thought and sharpen observation about personal experience. We’ll read our work aloud and listen to each other in a non-judgmental atmosphere. It’s an opportunity to share our lives and … it’s fun!

Wed 1:00-2:15p Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 10, 17 5 sessions

Bonnie Max, teacher, actress and director. She taught writing in the Center for Writing program, Drama Production, and acting in New York City for 20 years. Has taught writing to adults since 2010, including teaching writing to university students in Ghana. Taught pottery at the North Shore Community Arts Center in Great Neck and privately for many years. Received David Rauch Award for teaching in 2012 in Great Neck. BA, Education, Hofstra Univ.; BA, and MA, Education, Queens College; post-graduate work, Creative Dramatics, Hunter College.

Contemporary Global Issues
At a time of change in the US administration, our country is dealing with many issues on the international stage. This course takes a closer look into the history and global forces shaping our country’s foreign policy and economic priorities today.

Wed 1:00-2:15p Feb 3, 24 2 sessions

Ellen Houston, adjunct professor, Marymount Manhattan College International Studies Dept., Effectiveness of Foreign Aid in Sub-Saharan Africa, and International Aid and Development. BA, International Studies, Univ. of Denver; MSc, Economics, New School for Social Research.

Makers of History XII
A look at some of the most dynamic people who have changed the course of history, for good or ill: Martin Luther, Abraham Lincoln, Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin. Busy with our own lives, we of necessity harbor cartoon versions of historical VIPs. If we like them, they are good; if we dislike them, they are all bad. We’ll revisit these historic figures, showing that almost all are complex characters, with good and evil traits intertwined in varying proportions.

Wed 2:45-4:00p Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 4 sessions

Manfred Weidhorn, professor emeritus of English at Yeshiva Univ. He has published a dozen books and over 100 essays on such historical figures like Shakespeare, Milton, Churchill, Galileo, Napoleon, Robert E. Lee, and Jackie Robinson, as well as on cultural history, and the relationship between religion and science.

Creativity, Spirituality and the Unknown
Creativity has always been a way of tapping into an awareness of who we are beyond the physical realm of the senses. Poets, dancers, painters all seek to express the essential self beyond the personality. When this happens, the resonance of truth speaks to us directly from the unknown. In these three classes, we will look at the work of several poets and painters, including art creations by CL&L students, Renée Lerner and Natalie Weinstein, so that we can learn about communicating a deeper essence about the nature of reality.

Wed 2:45-4:00p Feb 3, 10, 24 3 sessions

Alan Steinfeld teaches adult education on topics devoted to creativity and perception. He hosts a cable program, New Realities, Monday nights on WLNY, Channel 57, and is the founder of NewRealities.com, a website for body, mind, and spirit.
Five Basic Principles for Getting (and Staying) Organized
"I'll get organized! Starting tomorrow." Sound like you? Professional organizers and co-authors of Beyond Tidy, Annmarie Brogan and Marie Limpert outline solutions to common challenges that get people stuck. They combine personalized organizing strategies with the science of positive psychology to help empower people to reach their goals and be active creators of a home and life they love. Among the topics they'll cover are: what it really means to be organized; the best ways to organize and declutter your spaces; developing a positive, growth mindset that will keep you motivated and solution-focused; and how to avoid getting off track.

Wed 2:45-4:00p
Feb 17
1 session

Annmarie Brogan and Marie Limpert, co-owners of Organize Me! of NY, LLC; co-authors of Beyond Tidy: Declutter Your Mind and Discover the Magic of Organized Living. Annmarie is a certified applied positive psychology practitioner and life coach, certification from The Flourishing Center in NYC; BBA, General Business, Pace Univ. Lubin School of Business. Marie is a corporate event planner and karate instructor. BS, Marketing and MBA, Business Management, St. John’s Univ.

THURSDAY

Major Legal Controversies: Past, Present, and Future
The law develops over time with past decisions serving as precedent to influence the outcome of current controversies. This course will examine current legal controversies as well as ones we can anticipate will confront the courts in the future. An important focus of this examination will be on how the outcome of these cases is likely to be shaped by Supreme Court precedent, which the current Supreme Court will either adhere to, distinguish, or overrule.

Thu 10:30-11:45a
Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
8 sessions

Leora Harpaz, professor emeritus who taught constitutional law, Western New England Univ. School of Law. Founded the annual Supreme Court Conference where she has been a speaker for 20+ years. Currently teaching American Legal System in the Political Science Dept, Hunter College, and in other senior learner programs. BA, Political Science, Stony Brook Univ.; law degrees, Boston Univ., NYU.

Politics 2021
Always lively and well-researched, Larry looks at the political landscape as we end an "unprecedented" year and face 2021 with its changing landscape. Here in NYC and NYS, we'll be looking at political developments as well. That and so much more in this interactive class.

Thu 1:00-2:15p
Jan 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb 4, 11, 18, 25
8 sessions

Lawrence Geneen, formerly Chief Operating Officer of the American Management Association and Executive Vice President of Johnson and Higgins. He is currently a risk management consultant.

Congress As It Was, As It Is – and How It Should Be
Former Congressman Richard L. Ottinger discusses the procedures followed in enacting laws and the relations between Members of Congress when he served in Congress, representing Westchester County 1965-1985, versus the era after Newt Gingrich became Speaker of the House and declared partisan ideological warfare on the institution. He will also cover the important issue of the effect of money and lobbying on elections and passage of laws by Congress during both periods: their impact on regulations implementing the laws passed, the rationale and problems of requiring two-third votes on legislation in the Senate, problems caused by the Constitutional provisions for the structure of the Congress and in election of presidents by the Electoral College.

Thu 2:45-4:00p
Jan 7
1 session

Steps to Healthier Living

Session 1: How Meditation Can Improve Your Life. Meditation has many benefits, more important than ever now during the pandemic. Among the aspects of life, it can enhance our emotional health, relationships, self-awareness, attention span, and sleep patterns. It can help to reduce stress, anxiety, memory loss, pain, addictions, and blood pressure. You can do it anywhere and anytime – it takes only a few minutes to change your mood and mindset. This session includes research on meditation and exercises you can follow on your own. Session 2: Dealing with Procrastination: I’ll Do It Now – Really! Many of us do a poor job at staying focused and managing our time properly. We regularly indulge in procrastination and delay, either ignoring what we know we need to do, or promising we’ll do it very soon – maybe today, maybe tomorrow. The problem, of course, is that we can end up not meeting our obligations, undermining ourselves, annoying the people and organizations we are supposed to cooperate with. And we can miss out on getting what we truly want in life. In this session, we’ll discuss actionable tools and strategies that you can start using today to defeat procrastination. They’ll save you time and precious energy previously used to worry, stress, and mismanage your time.

Thu 2:45-4:00p | Jan 14, Feb 4 | 2 sessions

Lisa G. Smith, certified health, weight loss, time management and life coach. Owner of Fierce Coaching where she works with clients to identify tools to gain control over challenging areas of their lives to “Stay Fierce.” Health/Life Coach Certified, Institute of Integrative Nutrition, certified fitness and yoga instructor, leadership trainer. BA, Philosophy, Hunter College.

Current Issues in Criminal Justice

Examining Criminal Legal Reform in New York State: This class addresses the questions: How did we get here and where should we be headed? Guest speaker Andre Ward, Associate VP, The Fortune Society, will explore the historical policies that have shaped America’s criminal legal system and offer insight into the current advocacy campaigns that are seeking to change NY State policies on criminal justice. Since its founding in in 1967, the Society’s vision is to foster a world where all who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated will thrive as positive, contributing members of society. Its approach is a holistic, one-stop model of service provision and advocating to end all forms of discrimination against those it serves.

Thu 2:45-4:00p | Jan 21 | 1 session

Fred Weinberg worked for 45 years for the NYS Division of Parole, NYS Department of Correctional Services, Kings County District Attorney, Vera Institute of Justice, other agencies. Author, Social Workers with Guns, self-published account of his experience with NY, NJ parole agencies. Andre Ward, Associate VP of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy, The Fortune Society. He oversees Fortune’s advocacy efforts to reduce reliance on incarceration, promote model programing for incarcerated people, change laws and policies that create barriers for successful reintegration, and foster a just and equitable criminal justice system. Member of Fortune’s executive team; previously, Director of Programs at Common Justice, an organization that develops and advances transformative solutions to violence and fosters racial equity without relying on incarceration. He built community partnerships to support employment, internship, housing, education, vocational training, mental health, and substance abuse needs. Social worker, certified anger management specialist, mental health first aid instructor, life skills coach, Columbia Univ. lecturer. Author, A Guide to Right Thinking for Reentry: A Comprehensive Study Book for the Presently and Formerly Incarcerated. Executive Producer, co-host for On the Count: The Criminal and Prison Justice Report on WBAI-FM in NYC.

The Post-Presidency Years: What Presidents Did After They Left (Willingly or Otherwise) the Biggest Job in the World

While the presidency ends, one way or another, life for most ex-presidents continued afterwards. Some of the 36 presidents who survived fully retired to quiet lives. Others were extremely productive, even newsworthy. Several wrote their memoirs – sure money-making endeavors. (The latest recently came out, as you undoubtedly know.) A few desperately needed the cash. Ulysses S. Grant, for example, raced against time and illness to complete his memoirs to leave something for his family’s support after his death. Much golf was played by several exes. Jimmy Carter, on the other hand, could be called the poster boy for post-presidencies. Still active at age 96, after almost 40 years out of the White House, he simply refuses to give up trying to change the world. Active in Habitat for Humanity with wife Rosalynn, he is the author of many books. Then there’s poor James K. Polk, a workaholic president, who barely lasted a month after leaving the White House. Teddy Roosevelt stayed true to form and ran around the world hunting and being active physically. And he ran for president again (and lost).

Thu 2:45-4:00p | Jan 28 | 1 session

Richard Klein, amateur historian, focused on the lives of US presidents and their wives. Former cabaret performer. Previous partner in a family business. BA, Communications, George Washington Univ.
We ♥ Milton Glaser! His Life and Artistry
Milton Glaser was a groundbreaking American graphic designer who was bigger than life in many respects. The creator of the I ♥ NY logo, the iconic Bob Dylan psychedelic album cover, and the New York Magazine logo, was also a lifetime professor at SVA and Cooper Union, as well as a frequent speaker on human rights. Lisa G. Smith worked as Glaser’s personal and professional assistant for many years and will discuss the man and his legacy.

Thu 2:45-4:00p Feb 11 1 session

Lisa G. Smith, See bio above.

Inside TV News: The Rita Satz Journalism Session, Insights into Political and Local Reporting
Covering the 2020 Campaigns: Inara will be joined by her son, Ben Norbitz, Editorial Producer on CNN’s Cuomo Prime Time. Having just come off a roller coaster news ride up to and after the historic 2020 election, he’ll have stories to share. A behind-the-scenes and on-the-scene look at news reporting on politics.

Thu 2:45-4:00p Feb 18 1 session


Wish You Were Here: More Postcards from NYC 1890s-1960s
Wonder what our great city was like in the past? See how our fellow New Yorkers lived, worked, and played years ago. Hy Mariampolski, antique postcard collector, dealer, and authority, illustrates the New York of yore by showing some top items from his 12,000+ stash of historic postcards. From the “Golden Age of Postcards,” during the first decade of the 20th century until the 1960s, NYC postcards were published, mailed, and collected in every corner of America and beyond, documenting virtually every feature of the world’s first megacity. This session will focus on buildings. NYC has always been a city of great architects, sophisticated designers, creative urban planners, and notable builders. Our built environment has also been a source of contention over many generations. Historic postcards trace the skyscrapers, mansions, tenements, apartment houses, and notable buildings that have made icons out of our skylines and streetscapes.

Thu 2:45-4:00p Feb 25 1 session