The New-York Historical Society’s acclaimed public program series is now online! Join us live on Zoom for an array of exciting talks with celebrated scholars, writers, and public figures.

In addition, browse our library of streaming program recordings produced exclusively for the New-York Historical Society. Recordings from many of our programs presented live on Zoom will be added to our on-demand library throughout the season.

For tickets to programs presented live on Zoom, visit www.nyhistory.org/programs/upcoming-public-programs or call 212-485-9268. Call center is open 9 am–5 pm daily.

To view a menu of exclusive programs available to stream on demand, visit programs.nyhistory.org. On-demand programs are made available on the indicated dates and can be purchased and viewed at your convenience.

Dear Friends,

When New-York Historical launched its first Diamonstein-Spielvogel Forum on History and the Public Good last year, it was clear that the themes to be addressed in the series were urgent and pressing. Still, we could not have guessed how critical these themes would become in a world in which virtually every nook and cranny has been transformed by COVID-19. It is with particular excitement that we anticipate our Diamonstein-Spielvogel Forum this spring, featuring a timely lecture by Walter Isaacson, who takes us on a thrilling journey from the origins of life to the future of our species to the brave new world of medical miracles and moral questions.

Also timely: our spring Mathew “Mike” Gladstein Lecture in Biography, in which Evan Osnos will speak on President Joe Biden and “what matters now,” and our Bonnie and Richard Reiss Lecture on Constitutional History and Law, featuring Preet Bharara and Anne Milgram on what the Biden era may bring. Our own Trustee Annette Gordon-Reed will recount the origins and legacies of Juneteenth as part of our spring Bernard and Irene Schwartz Distinguished Speakers Series, while History with David M. Rubenstein returns to our virtual stage with another New-York Historical trustee—Henry Louis Gates Jr.—among other interviewees.

I look forward to joining you via Zoom this spring and, I hope, in person in our Robert H. Smith Auditorium this fall. As always, I want to thank my talented colleague Vice President for Public Programs Dale Gregory and her team for their work in bringing this marvelous roster of programs and speakers to our virtual stage.

With very best wishes,

Louise

Louise Mirrer, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Visit nyhistory.org for the latest information
March 2021

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN
The Electoral College

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, March 2
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Akhil Reed Amar, David M. Rubenstein (moderator)

The Electoral College has been a source of much debate throughout American history, with the controversy amplified following the 2000 and 2016 elections. Esteemed constitutional scholar Akhil Reed Amar uncovers the fascinating history of the nation’s electoral process. Recorded January 22, 2021

A Conversation with Henry Louis Gates Jr.

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Thursday, March 4
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Henry Louis Gates Jr., David M. Rubenstein (moderator)

Henry Louis Gates Jr. has helped reshape the nation’s collective understanding of the legacy of slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the ongoing struggle for racial equality. The storied filmmaker and scholar discusses this important history, as well as his own background. Recorded January 22, 2021

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
White Freedom and Lady Liberty

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, March 16 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Tyler Stovall, Jennifer Sessions (moderator)

From its origins in France to its function as a public monument in the United States, the Statue of Liberty is one of the most recognizable embodiments of freedom in the modern world. Tyler Stovall, author of White Freedom, examines Lady Liberty’s evolving role as a racial symbol.

Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, March 18 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Julia Sweig, Betty Sue Flowers (moderator)

With a sharp and often overlooked political acumen, Lady Bird Johnson advised her husband’s political career and modernized the office of First Lady. Scholar Julia Sweig, author of Lady Bird Johnson, explores the life of President Lyndon B. Johnson’s most reliable and trusted political strategist.

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN
The Woman’s Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, March 23
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Elaine Weiss, David M. Rubenstein (moderator)

Elaine Weiss, author of The Woman’s Hour, uncovers the climactic, decades-long fight to make a woman’s right to vote the law of the land. Recorded September 25, 2020

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
Imperfect Union: The Frémonts, the American West, and the Civil War

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, March 25 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Steve Inskeep, Douglas Brinkley (moderator)

Steve Inskeep, author of Imperfect Union, tells the story of John and Jessie Frémont, the ambitious and talented husband and wife who were instrumental in the nation’s westward expansion during the 1800s and a time of great social and political upheaval in America.

Questions? Please contact public.programs@nyhistory.org for the fastest response.

If you would prefer to reach us by phone, you may leave a message on our office line, 212-485-9205.
April 2021

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

Saving Stuyvesant Town

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, April 20 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Daniel R. Garodnick, Gale Brewer (moderator)

In 2006, MetLife announced that Stuyvesant Town would be sold to the highest bidder. In conversation with Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, Stuy Town resident and former City Councilman Daniel R. Garodnick illustrates the nine-year struggle that led to a once-in-a-generation win for New York City tenants.

Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, April 22 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Evan Osnos, Douglas Brinkley (moderator)

Evan Osnos, author of the new biography Joe Biden, illuminates the 46th president’s time in the Senate, his eight years as vice president, the 2016 presidential primary, and ultimately, his successful bid for president in 2020.

War: How Conflict Shaped Us

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, April 8 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Margaret MacMillan, Philip Bobbitt (moderator)

When did war first start? Will human nature always doom us to fighting one another? In an illuminating discussion, renowned scholar and War author Margaret MacMillan looks at the ways in which war has influenced human society.

Trump, Biden, and the U.S. Supreme Court

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, April 15 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Akhil Reed Amar, Jeffrey Rosen, Marcia Coyle (moderator)

Experts shed light on some of the U.S. Supreme Court’s more recent decisions, discuss how the judicial philosophies of its nine sitting justices could impact the cases to come, and forecast how the Biden Administration could shape the judicial branch in its own right.

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN

Cover Story: Katharine Graham, CEO

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, April 27
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Donald E. Graham, Lally Graham Weymouth, David M. Rubenstein (moderator)

Katharine Graham, one of the most influential figures of the 20th century, championed excellence in journalism and transformed the Washington Post into one of the nation’s most respected newspapers. Two of Graham’s children discuss their mother’s life and legacy. Recorded January 7, 2021

Churchill and Friendship

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, March 30
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Andrew Roberts, General David H. Petraeus (U.S. Army, Retired) (moderator)

How can genuine friendship exist at the apex of politics? Acclaimed historian Andrew Roberts discusses Winston Churchill’s extraordinary capacity for friendship and the role his friends played in shaping his political career. Recorded February 26, 2021

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Please note: Programs are subject to change.
THE DIAMONSTEIN-SPIELVOGEL FORUM ON HISTORY AND THE PUBLIC GOOD
The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, April 29 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Walter Isaacson
Bestselling author Walter Isaacson discusses the life and work of the Nobel Prize-winning Jennifer Doudna—the subject of his new biography, The Code Breaker—who, with her collaborators, created a DNA-editing tool with the power to revolutionize human health.

May 2021

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
Race and Freedom of Expression
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, May 4 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Randall Kennedy, Nadine Strossen (MODERATOR)
Join us to explore instances in American history that saw clashes between law, freedom of expression, and fights for and against white supremacy, from laws that prohibited teaching enslaved people to read or write to efforts to ban the film Birth of a Nation.

After Trump: Reconstructing the Presidency
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, May 6 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Jack Goldsmith, Trevor Morrison (MODERATOR)
Join us for an illuminating discussion with renowned scholar Jack Goldsmith, co-author of After Trump, about the historical context of reforms proposed to bring further safety and stability to one of the most powerful positions of leadership in the world.

THE PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON LECTURE IN AMERICAN HISTORY
American Republics: A Continental History of the United States, 1783–1850
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, May 11 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Alan Taylor, Eric Foner (MODERATOR)
Historian Alan Taylor, author of American Republics, illuminates the tumultuous early years of the United States during which the nation was contending with European empires, the growing influence and power of slavery, bitter political party divisions, and systemic violence against Native peoples.

THE JEMB REALTY LECTURE IN AMERICAN HISTORY
The Words That Made Us: America’s Constitutional Conversation, 1760–1840
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, May 13 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Akhil Reed Amar, Richard Brookhiser (MODERATOR)
In the decades following the ratification of the Constitution, Americans continued to wrestle with weighty questions left unresolved by the document. Acclaimed scholar Akhil Reed Amar, author of The Words That Made Us, discusses the great constitutional questions of the nation’s early days.

BONNIE AND RICHARD REISS LECTURE IN CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY AND LAW
The Rule of Law in the Biden Era
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, May 18 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Preet Bharara, Anne Milgram, (MODERATOR to be announced)
Join us for a wide-ranging conversation with Preet Bharara and Anne Milgram, co-hosts of the popular podcast CAFE Insider, about the state of the Department of Justice, the rule of law, and the Biden administration’s first four months.
BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
On Juneteenth
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, May 20 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Annette Gordon-Reed, MODERATOR to be announced
Interweaving American history and personal family stories, On Juneteenth author Annette Gordon-Reed—a descendant of enslaved people brought to Texas in the 1850s—recounts the origins of Juneteenth and explores the legacies of the holiday that remain with us.

June 2021
Gay Like Me: A Father Writes to His Son
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Thursday, June 3
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Richie Jackson, Chelsea Clinton (moderator)
In an intimate conversation with Chelsea Clinton, Gay Like Me author and award-winning Broadway, TV, and film producer Richie Jackson reflects on his experiences as a gay man in America and the progress and setbacks of the LGBTQ+ community over the last 50 years. 
Recorded October 29, 2020

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN
The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Thursday, June 10
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Lillian Faderman, David M. Rubenstein (MODERATOR)
Historian Lillian Faderman, author of The Gay Revolution, examines the early days of the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights in the 1950s, the revolutionary changes of the 1960s, the AIDS epidemic that left the community decimated but united, and recent setbacks and strides forward for equality.
Recorded September 25, 2020

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM TALKS
from the Bernard and Irene Schwartz Classic Film Series
SPRING 2021

Let’s go to the movies! The New-York Historical Society is digging into the archives of the Bernard and Irene Schwartz Classic Film Series to highlight talks you may have missed. Enjoy audio recordings of engaging discussions from the comfort of your home and be sure to re-watch favorite classics on your preferred streaming service or TV network. Visit www.nyhistory.org/friday-night-film-talks to stream these discussions.
MARCH 2021

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, March 5
FILM TALK: Foreign Correspondent (1940)
Featuring: Adam Gopnik, Richard Brody
New Yorker writers Adam Gopnik and Richard Brody dive into Alfred Hitchcock’s classic spy thriller in which a young reporter struggles to uncover Nazi agents in Britain. Recorded May 3, 2013

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, March 12
FILM TALK: Adam’s Rib (1949)
Featuring: Annette Gordon-Reed, Judge Robert R. Reed, Ron Simon, Dale Gregory
A dynamic panel introduces this classic comedy in which Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn star as married lawyers who oppose each other in court. Recorded March 23, 2018

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, March 19
FILM TALK: They Were Expendable (1945)
Featuring: Mary Owen, Craig L. Symonds, Ron Simon
Mary Owen, daughter of Donna Reed, is joined by historian Craig L. Symonds and Paley Center Curator Ron Simon to introduce John Ford’s classic war film depicting the courage and strength of the PT boat crews serving in the Philippines in the days after Pearl Harbor. Recorded June 7, 2013

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, March 26
FILM TALK: Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936)
Featuring: Ted Widmer
Historian Ted Widmer examines Frank Capra’s timeless screwball comedy in which small-town Mr. Deeds—played memorably by Gary Cooper—inherits millions in the midst of the Great Depression. Recorded June 14, 2013

APRIL 2021

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, April 2
FILM TALK: In the Heat of the Night (1967)
Featuring: Lee Grant, Susan Lacy
Actress Lee Grant and acclaimed producer Susan Lacy discuss this Academy Award-winning crime drama starring the incomparable Sidney Poitier as a detective from Philadelphia who is assigned to a murder case in a racist Southern town. Recorded November 1, 2013

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, April 9
FILM TALK: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943)
Featuring: Thelma Schoonmaker
Academy Award-winning film editor Thelma Schoonmaker introduces her late husband Michael Powell’s emotional epic that takes viewers on a journey through four decades in the life and loves of British military officer Clive Wynne-Candy. Recorded January 17, 2014

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, April 16
FILM TALK: The Fallen Idol (1948)
Featuring: Michael Korda
Author Michael Korda explores Carol Reed’s award-winning British drama, produced by his uncle Alexander Korda, in which an impressionable child’s innocence is challenged when his butler is accused of murder. Recorded May 2, 2014

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, April 23
FILM TALK: North by Northwest (1959)
Featuring: Ric Burns
Renowned documentary filmmaker Ric Burns introduces Alfred Hitchcock’s intense spy thriller, which finds Cary Grant on the run due to a deadly case of mistaken identity. Recorded October 24, 2014

MAY 2021

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, May 7
FILM TALK: Dr. Strangelove (1964)
Featuring: Ric Burns
Ric Burns explores Stanley Kubrick’s iconic dark comedy in which the president and his war team must scramble to prevent doomsday after a rogue general launches a nuclear attack on the U.S.S.R. Recorded January 29, 2016

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, May 14
FILM TALK: The Joy Luck Club (1993)
Featuring: Rosalind Chao, Ken Smith
Joy Luck Club co-star Rosalind Chao, joined by performing arts critic Ken Smith, discusses this moving film that weaves together past and present through the intimate lives of four Chinese immigrants and their daughters. Recorded March 13, 2015

JUNE 2021

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, June 4
Featuring: Ron Simon, Joanna Lee, Ken Smith, John Woo
A lively panel discussion sets the stage for this romantic comedy in which a gay man living in New York plans a marriage of convenience to placate his traditional Taiwanese parents. Recorded February 28, 2015

AVAILABLE STARTING: Friday, June 11
FILM TALK: Philadelphia (1993)
Featuring: Linda Greenhouse, Robert Post, Kenji Yoshino
Legal experts introduce one of the first mainstream Hollywood films to directly confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This riveting courtroom drama, starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, ignited a wider conversation about the social, political, and medical issues surrounding the disease. Recorded February 27, 2015

Entrance and marquee of the Strand Theatre, 1579 Broadway, New York City, undated (ca. August-September 1918). Hassler, William Davis, 1877–1921
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