Virtual Lectures & Conversations

DECEMBER 2020, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021

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 and writers.

In addition, browse our library of new, 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,

Time flies, we often remark, but these days at New-York Historical, it feels far less fleeting. The recent installation of the newly restored iconic grand lobby clock from the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, in our Central Park West lobby, reminds us of a time and a place when ornate objects delighted travelers. With its four faces telling the time in New York, Madrid, Paris, and Greenwich, England, the clock treats us as well to a marvelous time-travel experience—one that’s particularly welcome today as we stay local or shelter in place.

Our new roster of virtual Bernard and Irene Schwartz Distinguished Speakers programs also takes us far and wide, and without moving from our computer screens. A conversation between Chairman Emeritus Roger Hertog and Asian Studies scholar Dan Blumenthal sets the frightening global implications of a political or economic crisis in China within the context of Chinese history. Julian Fellowes’ interview of Catherine Grace Katz, author of the acclaimed Daughters of Yalta, sheds new light on the three young women who accompanied their famous fathers to Yalta in 1945.

Closer to home are conversations around some of today’s most vexed topics, for example “White Fright,” featuring Jane Dailey and Randall Kennedy, and “The Economy and the President,” featuring Trustees Byron Wien and James Grant. Our History with David M. Rubenstein series continues, including a marvelous exchange between David Rubenstein and Jeffrey Rosen on the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

All in all, a great new season awaits us, thanks to our talented Vice President for Public Programs Dale Gregory and her extraordinary team. I hope you will “Meet me at the clock” soon. And do also visit our annual Holiday Express show, which showcases spectacular antique trains and toys from the famed Jerni Collection.

With very best wishes,

Louise Mirrer, Ph.D.
President and CEO
December 2020

The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, December 15, 2020 | 6 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Catherine Grace Katz, Julian Fellowes (Moderator)
In the waning days of World War II, three intelligent and glamorous young women accompanied their eminent fathers to the Yalta Conference in February 1945. Catherine Grace Katz and Julian Fellowes reveal the remarkable untold story of fathers and daughters during a penultimate moment in world history. Recorded October 25, 2020.

The Lapham’s Quarterly Series
A Conversation with David Blight: The Spirit of Democracy
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Thursday, December 17, 2020 | 6 pm ET
FREE
Featuring: David W. Blight, Lewis H. Lapham (Moderator)
In the wake of the 2020 election and the moral and philosophical fragmentations that it has reaffirmed, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David W. Blight, in conversation with Lapham’s Quarterly Editor and Founder Lewis H. Lapham, illuminates how American democracy got here and what the path is going forward. Recorded December 11, 2020.

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN
The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, December 8, 2020
6 pm ET | $20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Peter Baker, Susan Glasser, Douglas Brinkley (Moderator)
Two revered political journalists, in conversation with New-York Historical’s Presidential Historian Douglas Brinkley, share a riveting examination of the life of one of the most influential power brokers in American history: James A. Baker III. Recorded October 23, 2020.

The President and Immigration Law
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 6 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Cristina M. Rodríguez, Akhil Reed Amar (Moderator)
In an in-depth discussion that spans the founding era to present-day disputes over how to address asylum-seekers at the Southern border, scholar Cristina M. Rodríguez explores how presidential power has become a dominant force driving the nation’s immigration policy and how the system can be reformed. Recorded October 23, 2020.
January 2021

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

The Last Million: Europe’s Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, January 5, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: David Nasaw, Judith Shulevitz (MODERATOR)
Join acclaimed historian and author David Nasaw and journalist Judith Shulevitz as they illuminate the heartbreaking and sometimes shocking story of the millions of people left displaced and homeless in Europe after World War II.

The Crooked Path to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Antislavery Constitution
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, January 14, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Robert M. Gates, James Oakes, Manisha Sinha (MODERATOR)
Author and historian James Oakes, in conversation with scholar Manisha Sinha, uncovers Lincoln’s antislavery strategies, which began long before his presidency and reveal a striking consistency and long-term commitment, all centered on the Constitution.

She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Eric Foner (MODERATOR)
Discover the full breadth of Harriet Tubman’s extraordinary life, including her work helping to free enslaved people, her advocacy for women’s suffrage, her service in the Union Army during the Civil War, and her experiences as an entrepreneur, nurse, mother, fundraiser, philanthropist, and wife.

The Economy and the President
LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, January 26, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: James Grant, Byron R. Wien (MODERATOR)
Following the presidential inauguration, longtime financial observers examine the economic successes and missteps of the past few years, explore how the economy influenced the 2020 election, and forecast how the Biden administration’s policies could impact the national economic climate.

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN

A Conversation with Jeffrey Rosen: The Life and Legacy of Justice Ginsburg
AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Thursday, January 7, 2021 | 6 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)
Featuring: Jeffrey Rosen, David M. Rubenstein (MODERATOR)
Starting in the 1990s, Jeffrey Rosen met with Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to discuss both her political and personal life, gleaning priceless observations. Join us to hear Rosen’s reflections on their three decades of conversations, as well as his thoughts on the late Justice Ginsburg’s legacy. Recorded November 13, 2020.

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. Please note: Programs are subject to change.
BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES

Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, January 28, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Martha S. Jones, Eric Foner (moderator)
Discover how Black women defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot from the earliest days of the republic through the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond—and how they wielded political power to secure the equality and dignity of all persons.

February 2021

DISTINGUISHED LEHRMAN FELLOW AT N-YHS LECTURE
Churchill and the Royal Family

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, February 2, 2021 | 6 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Andrew Roberts, Gen. David H. Petraeus (U.S. Army, Ret.) (moderator)
Winston Churchill famously served as prime minister under Queen Elizabeth II—but he also knew every monarch dating back to King Edward VII. Andrew Roberts, the author of Churchill: Walking with Destiny, will investigate Churchill's long and sometimes turbulent relationship with the Royal House of Windsor. Recorded January 8, 2021.

PETRAEUS | HERTOG LECTURE ON LEADERSHIP
Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, February 4, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Reflecting on his own life experiences, Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule (U.S. Army, Ret.) discusses the myths—and even outright lies—that surround the Civil War and how those narratives embody a cultural gulf that separates millions of Americans to this day.

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
White Fright: The Sexual Panic at the Heart of America's Racist History

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Jane Dailey, Randall Kennedy (moderator)
Author and historian Jane Dailey, in conversation with scholar Randall Kennedy, examines the long struggle for equality for Black Americans and uncovers how white anxiety about interracial relations found expression in some of the most contentious episodes of American history following Reconstruction.

HISTORY WITH DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN
The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency

AVAILABLE ON DEMAND:
Starting Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 6 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: John Dickerson, David M. Rubenstein (moderator)
Author John Dickerson explores how presidents from Washington and Lincoln to the present day have taken on the infinitely complex roles of commander-in-chief, chief executive, chief diplomat, and world leader. Recorded November 13, 2020.

BERNARD AND IRENE SCHWARTZ
DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS SERIES
Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge

LIVE ON ZOOM:
Thursday, February 25, 2021 | 6–7 pm ET
$20 (Members $10)

Featuring: Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Eric Foner (moderator)
Historians explore the incredible story of Ona Judge, a courageous young woman who risked everything to live as a free person in defiance of the man who had brought freedom to some, but not all: George Washington.
FRIDAY NIGHT FILM TALKS
from the Bernard and Irene Schwartz Classic Film Series
DECEMBER 2020, JANUARY & FEBRUARY 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.

DECEMBER 2020

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, December 4
FILM TALK: All the King’s Men (1949)  
Featuring: Linda Greenhouse, Robert Post, Kenji Yoshino
A trio of acclaimed law scholars discuss the film noir that follows the rise of ambitious politician Willie Stark, allegedly modeled after the real 1930s Louisiana governor Huey Long. Recorded February 16, 2018.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, December 11
FILM TALK: Roman Holiday (1953)  
Featuring: Melanie Wyler, Bob Herbert
Melanie Wyler, daughter of the film’s director, William Wyler, and journalist Bob Herbert explore this romantic jewel about a sheltered princess in Rome who sneaks out for a night on the town and meets a charming American reporter. Recorded June 13, 2014.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, December 18
FILM TALK: Stormy Weather (1943)  
Featuring: Stanley Crouch, Bob Herbert
The late cultural critic and biographer Stanley Crouch and journalist Bob Herbert introduce this musical—loosely based on the life of its star, dancer and actor Bill “Bojangles” Robinson—which showcases some of the greatest Black talents of the early-to-mid 20th century. Recorded June 6, 2014.

JANUARY 2021

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, January 8
FILM TALK: Things to Come (1936)  
Featuring: Annette Gordon-Reed, Michael Korda, Ron Simon, Dale Gregory
In an intriguing vision of alternative history from the mind of science fiction master H.G. Wells, a blighted Britain attempts to survive a new Dark Age after decades of fighting for a forgotten cause. Recorded December 1, 2017.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, January 15
FILM TALK: The Thin Man (1934)  
Featuring: Philip Bobbitt
Constitutional theorist Philip Bobbitt discusses a classic murder mystery in which a former detective reluctantly investigating the disappearance of a wealthy inventor invites all the suspects to a dinner party. Recorded March 20, 2015.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, January 22
FILM TALK: All the President’s Men (1976)  
Featuring: Philip Bobbitt, Akhil Reed Amar
Scholars Akhil Reed Amar and Philip Bobbitt explore Alan J. Pakula’s intense political thriller that follows reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in their pursuit of truth during the Watergate scandal. Recorded May 29, 2015.

FEBRUARY 2021

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, January 29
FILM TALK: Paths of Glory (1957)  
Featuring: Michael Korda
In one of his first major films, Stanley Kubrick teams up with Kirk Douglas to provide an unapologetic look at the futile and dehumanizing nature of war. Recorded November 22, 2013.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, February 5
FILM TALK: I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang (1932)  
Featuring: Sherrilyn Ifill, Khalil Gibran Muhammad
Sherrilyn Ifill and Khalil Gibran Muhammad explore the film based on the true story of Robert Elliot Burns, which follows a World War I veteran falsely convicted of robbery and forced to endure the brutal realities of the chain-gang system in the South. Recorded January 30, 2015.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, February 12
FILM TALK: Abe Lincoln in Illinois (1940)  
Featuring: Harold Holzer, Ron Simon
As World War II raged in Europe, Americans found solace and inspiration in this film chronicling the nation’s greatest president and his electrifying rise to national prominence. Recorded March 8, 2013.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, February 19
FILM TALK: American Madness (1932)  
Featuring: Adam Gopnik, Richard Brody
Acclaimed director Frank Capra, 14 years before the release of It’s A Wonderful Life, hints at the darker side of the American dream in this Depression-era film about an idealistic bank president who faces disaster after his institution is robbed. Recorded February 14, 2014.

AVAILABLE ON: Friday, February 26
FILM TALK: The Wiz (1978)  
Featuring: Shelton Becton, Dale Gregory
This cult classic musical extravaganza is a reimagining of L. Frank Baum’s beloved book The Wonderful Wizard of Oz and features a star-studded all-Black cast. Recorded Friday, February 28, 2020.

LEARN MORE
For more information about New-York Historical Society’s exhibitions, educational programming, and collections, please visit nyhistory.org.

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