

**Cultural Diversity in India**

**Tuesday, 01/05/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Bidhan Chandra will provide some basic knowledge and cultural awareness of the key cultural diversity factors in India that make this country one of the most diverse and challenging countries in the world. Beginning with a brief political history of the country, the participants will be involved in a virtual tour of the country and obtain an overview of the country's current political system, economy, geography, language diversity, religious diversity, education system, and the business environment.



Speaker: Dr. Bidhan Chandra, PhD, MBA, MA, BSME , is an international business educator and intercultural consultant, currently a Professor in the School of Business, SUNY Empire State College, Saratoga Springs. He is the recipient of the prestigious Faculty Award for Capital District Leadership Council Diversity and Inclusion (2013) and Empire State College's Altes Prize for Exemplary Community Service (2016) for promoting global cultural diversity awareness initiatives.

**The Music of Erik Satie**

**Thursday, 01/07/2021**

**Time 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

The program begins with a biography of Erik Satie, French composer and pianist (1866 – 1925), followed by a selection of Satie's music. A special piece with Satie roots by an American musician closes the presentation.



Frank Strauss grew up in Scotia, graduated from Scotia High, graduated from Union College in 1963, graduated from the NJ College of Dentistry. He served in the US Army Dental Corps in Germany and returned to Scotia to start a dental practice in 1972. He retired from practice in 2011 after 42 years, including 3 years in the Army. Strauss has had a lifelong interest in classical music and enjoys researching music topics, downloading information from the internet, and creating programs to share with others.

### **Atomic Doctors**

**Tuesday, 01/12/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

After his father died, James L. Nolan, Jr., took possession of a box of private family materials. To his surprise, the small secret archive contained a treasure trove of information about his grandfather's role as a doctor in the Manhattan Project. Dr. Nolan, it turned out, had been a significant figure. A talented ob-gyn radiologist, he cared for the scientists on the project, organized safety and evacuation plans for the Trinity test at Alamogordo, escorted the "Little Boy" bomb from Los Alamos to the Pacific Islands, and was one of the first Americans to enter the irradiated ruins of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nolan's talk, based on his new book, *Atomic Doctors: Conscience and Complicity at the Dawn of the Nuclear Age*, follows his grandfather's journey and examines the conflicted manner in which Nolan and his medical colleagues sought to maximize the health and safety of those exposed to nuclear radiation, all the while serving leaders determined to minimize delays and maintain secrecy.



James L. Nolan, Jr is Chair and Washington Gladden 1859 Professor of Sociology at Williams College. He received his B.A. from University of California, Davis, M.A. from University of Virginia and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, Sociology. Professor Nolan's teaching and research interests fall within the general areas of law and society, culture, technology and social change, and historical comparative sociology. His previous books include *What They Saw in America: Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, G.K. Chesterton, and Sayyid Qutb* (2016); *Legal Accents, Legal Borrowing: The International Problem-Solving Court Movement* (2009); *Reinventing Justice: The American Drug Court Movement* (2001); and *The Therapeutic State: Justifying Government at Century's End* (1998). He is the recipient of several grants and awards including National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships and a Fulbright scholarship. He has held visiting fellowships at Oxford University, Loughborough University, and the University of Notre Dame.

**Seeing What You're Missing: Thinking Clearly in a World of Illusion, Misinformation, and Deception**  
**Thursday, 01/14/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Most of the bad decisions we make happen not because we think about the right information in the wrong way, but because we think about the wrong information. Why do we think about the wrong information? Sometimes it's because people hide things from us, but often we hide things from ourselves. This talk, by the co-author of the bestselling book "The Invisible Gorilla", will include concrete, science-based advice to help you find and focus on the most important information before you decide—to see what you're missing.



Dr. Christopher Chabris is a Professor at Geisinger, an integrated healthcare system in Pennsylvania, where he co-directs the Behavioral Insights Team (the "nudge unit"). He has previously taught at Union College and Harvard University, and he is a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. His research focuses on attention, decision-making, collective intelligence, cognitive ability, and behavior genetics. Chris received his Ph.D. in psychology and A.B. in computer science from Harvard University. He is the co-author of the New York Times bestseller *The Invisible Gorilla: How Our Intuitions Deceive Us*, which has been published in 20 languages to date. He shared the 2004 Ig Nobel Prize in Psychology (awarded for "achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think"), given for the scientific experiment that inspired the book. That "invisible gorilla" experiment has been named as one of the most famous studies in the history of psychology. Chris has spoken to audiences at major conferences and businesses, including PopTech, Google, Credit Suisse, and Procter & Gamble, and his work has been published in leading journals including *Science*, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *Psychological Science*, *Perception*, and *Cognitive Science*. He is a chess master, poker amateur, and games enthusiast; for three years he wrote the monthly "Game On" column in *The Wall Street Journal*, where he has also published essays and book reviews. He has also contributed to *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, and other national publications.

**Revitalization of Schenectady County**

**Tuesday, 01/19/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

David Hogenkamp of Metroplex will give a presentation on the long history of urban redevelopment in Schenectady. The presentation will briefly review the industrial heritage and the later decline in Schenectady which resulted in the creation of the Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority. Since Metroplex was created in 1999, Schenectady County has experienced over \$1.4 billion of new

investment focused on recreating the downtown arts and entertainment center in the City of Schenectady and other economic development efforts that result in more local tax revenue, employment opportunities, and a greater quality of life. David will also provide details on recent efforts to remove blight and further enhance neighborhoods by addressing vacant, abandoned, and bank-owned “zombie” residential properties through the Capital Region Land Bank.



David Hogenkamp is a native of East Aurora, New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Union College and Master of Regional Planning from the State University of New York at Albany. David serves on the board of the Albany Bar and lives in Niskayuna with his wife and two children.

### **States in American Constitutionalism: Interpretation, Authority, and Politics**

**Thursday, 01/21/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

This talk examines the often overlooked role that states have played in the development and maintenance of American constitutionalism by examining the purpose and effect of state resolutions on national constitutional meaning. From colonial practices through contemporary politics, subnational governments have made claims about what national constitutional provisions and principles ought to mean, fashioned political coalitions to back them, and asserted their authority to provoke constitutional settlement. Yet, this practice has been far from static. Political actors have altered the practice in response to their interpretive objectives and the political landscape of the day. This presentation explains both the development of the practice and the way each innovation to the practice affected subsequent iterations.



UCALL Winter 2021 Online Programs (Brochure not published due to Covid)

Bradley Hays, Chairman, Union College Political Science Department and an Associate Professor. He holds a B.S. from Northeastern University and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Prof. Hays's research focuses primarily on constitutional development and politics. His book, entitled *State in American Constitutionalism: Interpretation, Authority, and Politics*, explores state efforts to influence constitutional meaning outside of traditional legal pathways. Prof. Hays also has written about presidential pardoning power, the permeability of legal institutions, partisan efforts to use the judiciary to stabilize their national coalitions, and law and popular culture with a particular focus on the HBO series *The Wire*. Prof. Hays is a regular media contributor and "faculty in residency" at WAMC—Northeast Public Radio.

### **The Kindness of Strangers**

**Tuesday, 01/26/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Alden (Joe) Doolittle and Kate Dudding share stories that just may restore your faith in human goodness. Some are personal stories; others are stories from the news; a few have an historical twist. Come and enjoy these heart-warming stories with two master storytellers.

Pictures



Kate Dudding is an award-winning author and storyteller who won the Story Slam at the 2010 National Storytelling Conference in Los Angeles. She specializes in telling true stories about people who made a difference. She has told stories at many venues in the Northeastern USA, including The New-York Historical Society (New York City, NY), The Clearwater Festival (Croton-on-Hudson, NY), First Night Saratoga (Saratoga Springs, NY), and The Norman Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge, MA). Each of her first four CDs has won a national storytelling award.

Her fifth CD, *Learning About Muslims*, was released in March 2017. It is a collection of: traditional Muslim stories and poetry; stories about Muslims in the news; and stories about Muslims Kate met and things she learned at meetings of the Interfaith Story Circle Program (Albany, Schenectady and Troy, NY.)



Alden (Joe) Doolittle is entering his third generation as a storyteller and producer. He has applied his humorous, good-natured style with audiences throughout upstate New York. He loves to tell personal and family stories and has developed many historically based tales about the early history of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys and the Erie Canal. Joe is also co-producer of Story Circle at Proctors, a resident company offering a variety of programs at the Theater and throughout the region, including Story Sundays at the Glen Sanders Mansion, the annual Tellabration at Proctors and Story by Story on Public Access TV.

### **New Visions for a Quality Region: How the Capital Region Will Keep Moving Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Thursday, 01/28/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

When it comes to mobility, cars are dominant in American society. The Capital District Transportation Committee, the regional planning organization, wants to reduce that dominance by promoting cleaner, safer and healthier alternatives, such as public transportation, walking and bicycling. These are keys to creating a quality region and are part of the CDTC's New Visions 2050 plan, a transportation blueprint for the next 30 years. Jen Ceponis, senior planner for the organization, will present an overview of New Visions 2050, including how transportation and mobility were affected by the COVID virus and how the region responded.



Jennifer Ceponis is senior planner for The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC). For thirteen years she has developed and managed programs that prioritize the movement of people. While leading many of CDTC's planning efforts throughout the Capital District, like the Capital District Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan and the Capital District Trails Plan, her passion is to increase accessibility to transportation choices and inspire changes in how we choose to travel has grown. Ceponis states:

“My motivation to change the way we move people is rooted in my desire to create a more sustainable community - One that demonstrates to other regions and cities what can be done and one that retains the next generation of residents growing up here or who come here to study at one of our many educational institutions - One that attracts new residents who want to be part of a cleaner, greener, livable, and thriving place.”

**Art History - Northern Italy 1300 - 1500**

**Tuesday, 02/02/2021**

**1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

Many of us have a vague idea that the “Renaissance” changed Western European culture, and that it was somehow different (and “better”), than the long Middle Ages that preceded it. We are going to put the two back together, even though conventional history would put 1300-1400 in the Middle Ages and 1400-1500 in the Renaissance. We will see a continuum of dramatic change and innovation -- one full of almost unimaginable paradoxes. This program, which will be based on an interdisciplinary series of specific case studies, will be a prolegomenon to a full course to be offered subsequently.



St. Catherine of Alexandria, oil on canvas, 1520s, Painting by Lorenzo Lotto

Louisa Matthew received her PhD from Princeton University with a thesis on the Venetian Renaissance painter Lorenzo Lotto. She taught briefly in Canada before settling at Union College in the 1990s, where she teaches all western art history courses with subject matter dating before 1700. She has spent a significant amount of time in Florence thanks to a year’s fellowship at Villa I Tatti, the Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, and numerous Union College terms abroad. However, her research interests lie in Venice, where she studies the history of pigments and the working methods and business practices of painters in the period 1450 to 1550.