

### **The Election of 2020**

Monday: Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, & Nov. 2, 10

2 - 3:30 p.m.

Union College Professor of Political Science **Cliff Brown** will analyze the election of 2020 in real time, discussing the campaign strategies and practices of the two major-party presidential candidates. He will simultaneously put the campaign into historical and theoretical perspectives. Topics discussed will include campaign agenda setting and messaging, advertising, media strategies and electoral college strategies. Fundraising, foreign interference (yes, there will almost certainly be foreign interference), polling and its limits, and political constituencies. Questions and observations will be encouraged.

**Coordinator: Jim Comly**

### **Future Trends**

Tuesday: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 & Nov. 3

Thursday: Oct. 15, 22, 29 & Nov. 5

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Explore topics that will increasingly impact society over the next several decades and beyond.

Oct. 6: **Ricki Lewis**, Ph.D., geneticist at Albany Medical Center and science writer, will provide an update to her May 2020 webinar, “The Biology of the 2020 Pandemic.” Dr. Lewis will address recent findings on pandemic research and what lies ahead.

Oct. 13 & 15: “Cryptocurrency - The evolution of money and technology”

COVID-19 opens up a new global battlefield. Digital currencies are poised to challenge the notion of privacy, taxation and sovereign forms of money. As COVID-19 stresses the banking systems of many nations, the future of money will necessarily evolve. **Joseph Salvo**, Ph.D., GE Global Research, is founder of the Industrial Internet Consortium and an expert on complex systems and pervasive networking technology.

Oct. 20 & 22: **Chris Walcek**, Ph.D., a senior research scientist at the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center at UAlbany, will discuss climate change in upstate N.Y. Local measurements of climate will be presented in the context of the global changes underway. Local thermometers, precipitation records, tree rings and sediment cores from the Great Lakes reveal interesting aspects of past climates. How climate may change over the next century will be discussed.

Oct. 27 & 29: **Peter Tu**, Ph.D., chief scientist for Artificial Intelligence at GE Global Research U.S., will discuss artificial intelligence in two parts. In Part I, we will contemplate questions regarding what constitutes an intelligent agent – questions we are currently attempting to address. In Part II, we explore the impact of these techniques on society, with a particular focus on government policy.

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Nov. 3 & 5: **Mike Collins**, Ph.D., physicist and UCALL member, asks, “Is There Danger Ahead?” Many benefits are expected from future technologies, but there is danger that they could be misused. This talk explores the possible downsides of future technology as described in the book, *Homo Deus*, by Yuval Noah Harari. Several alternatives to these worst-case scenarios are also considered.

**Coordinator: Geri Mulligan**

### **Food for Thought: Sparking Your Interest!**

Wednesday: Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: Nov 3.

1:30 - 3 p.m.

This course features presentations on a different subject each week.

Oct. 7: **Katherine Czajkowski**, Mohawk Watershed Coordinator, NYSDEC – Mohawk River Basin Program/Cornell Water Resources Institute. Katherine will speak on “The Mohawk River Basin Program: Creating a Sense of Place.” The program was established to better manage natural resources and human activities through an ecosystem-based management plan, in order to conserve, preserve and restore the environmental quality of the river and watershed. The program brings together stakeholders and partners to work collaboratively to achieve these goals.

Oct. 14: **Donald P. Levy**, Ph.D., director, Siena College Research Institute, will discuss “2020 Pre-election Polling: Going Behind the Curtain.” Polls, are they an art or a science? Pre-election polling is everywhere. Go behind the curtain and learn how polls are written, conducted, analyzed and reported. And get the low-down on the 2020 election.

Oct. 21: **Nadja Hansen**, Metropolitan Museum of Art, will present “Medieval Ages and its Art.” She will look at secular and religious art of the Romanesque and Gothic, and explore the circumstances, literature, beliefs and philosophies that gave birth to it and nurtured its development. Discover how medieval audiences would have understood and responded to the art of this time. This will involve close looking, discussion and a great deal of visual exploration.

Oct. 28: **Andrea Foroughi**, Ph.D., Union College associate professor of history and chair of the History Department, will discuss “Women’s Suffrage in the U.S.: The 19th Amendment’s Promises and Problems.” In November 1920, many American women exercised their new right to vote in federal elections. Why did it take so long for women to gain the right to vote? And why, for some women, was the right to suffrage still not protected? This lecture considers the 19th Amendment’s possibilities and problems for American women.

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Nov. 3: **Bonnie McGuire Jones**, Esq., trusts and estate-planning attorney, returns to UCALL to present “Being Generous Is One of Life’s Best Experiences!” Bonnie, whose presentations are like listening to an hour of storytelling, will explain smart ways of stretching your charitable giving under laws that changed recently, including one type of charitable gift that won’t cost you a dollar. In addition, Bonnie will tell you about her 2019 visit to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle, which is supporting many of the labs whose scientists are creating a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Coordinators: Willy Lund and Jenny Overeynder**

### **Baroque Pearls by Josef Schmee**

Wednesday: Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28 & Nov. 4

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Baroque music flourished from about 1600 to 1750. In this time new forms such as the suite or the concerto grosso were created, sinfonia or sonata did not yet mean the same as in the classical period. It was the beginning of opera in Italy and later in France and other countries. Old instruments got redesigned and new ones invented to meet the new style. Baroque music developed along distinct national styles. Italy had Monteverdi, Corelli, several Scarlattis, Vivaldi and Pergolesi, to name a few. In France, we find the great Lully, Charpentier, Couperin, Rameau and many others. England had Purcell but also claimed Handel, who wrote many Italian operas and was born in Germany. North of the Alps are names like Schütz, Buxtehude, Biber, Telemann and J. S. Bach, who also wrote in the Italian and French style. The Baroque period includes the year 1685, in which J. S. Bach, G. F. Handel and Domenico Scarlatti, three of the greatest composers ever, were born. The original performance movement has revived the richness of this musically exciting time for the enjoyment of all of us. We will contemplate many shorter pieces of music demonstrating styles and performance practice. We will also play selections from longer pieces that reveal the grandeur of this period.

**Coordinator: Jim Comly**

### **To End All Wars: Literature of WWI and WWII**

Tuesday: Nov. 10, 17, 24 & Dec. 1, 8

10 a.m. - noon

The expression “the war to end all wars” was, for a time, used to describe WWI. But history tells us that wars do not end warfare. As Australian singer Eric Bogle puts it in “No Man’s Land,” a song addressed to a 19-year-old-soldier who died in 1916, “Did you really believe that this war would end wars? / . . . the suffering, the sorrow, the glory, the shame / The killing, the dying, it was all done in vain, / For Willie McBride, it all happened again, / And again, and again, and again, and again.” Sadly, that seems especially true of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s two world wars, occurring less than 25 years apart.

**Harry Marten**, the Edward E. Hale Jr. Professor Emeritus of English, Union College, will lead a discussion of five novels and a brief sampling of war poems and memoirs. You will explore landscapes and mindscapes, the world before and after the wars, the facts of history and the myths and manipulations. You will explore the madness, the impact on nations, on individuals, on families, physical and psychological wounds, acts

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of bravery and betrayal, cruelty and kindness, truths of conflict and old lies and new. Participants should read and be prepared to discuss *A Long Long Way* by Sebastian Barry (11/10), *Regeneration* by Pat Barker (11/17), *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje (11/24), *Ceremony* by Leslie Marmon Silko (12/1), and *House on Endless Waters* by Emuna Elon (12/8). To allow for active discussion, registration will be limited to 25 UCALL members.

**Coordinator: Linda Doyle**