Spring 2021 Cultural Arts Virtual Speakers

Women March
New-York Historical Society’s Center for Women’s History
Monday, March 8

Discover 200 years of women’s activism and celebrate the centennial of women’s suffrage and the 19th Amendment with exhibition highlights from Women March. Led by a curator from New-York Historical Society’s Center for Women’s History, this interactive virtual presentation uses photographs, campaign posters, and historic footage to uncover the stories of women throughout the centuries who organized and marched to end slavery, win the vote, and protect reproductive rights, among other crucial causes.

A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son
Michael Ian Black
Thursday, March 11

Comedian, actor, and writer Michael Ian Black has written many award-winning books and in A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son, he offers a thoughtful and personal appraisal of the complicated meaning of masculinity in our times. The book blends memoir and advice, written with both weight and wit, and challenges the outdated assumptions that society continues to impose upon boys about their place in the world. Black tackles these serious questions with characteristic humor and a respectful grace.

We Refuse to be Enemies: How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace, One Friendship at a Time
Sabeeha Rehman & Walter Ruby
Monday, March 22

Concerned with the rise of intolerance and bigotry in our country, Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby have spent decades doing interfaith work and nurturing cooperation among the Muslim and Jewish communities. They have learned that through face-to-face encounters people of all backgrounds can come to know the Other as a fellow human being and turn her or him into a trusted friend. In We Refuse to Be Enemies, the authors share their vision for reconciliation, offering concrete principles for building an alliance in support of religious freedom and human rights.

The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught in Between
Michael Dobbs
Monday, April 5

A Holocaust story that is both German and American, The Unwanted is the intimate account of Jewish families in a small village on the edge of the Black Forest in desperate pursuit of American visas to flee the Nazis. Drawing on previously unpublished letters, diaries, interviews, and visa records, Michael Dobbs provides an illuminating account of America’s response to the refugee crisis of the 1930s and 1940s. With a reporter’s eye for narrative and a historian’s attention to detail and context, Dobbs, a foreign correspondent, gives us a heartbreaking and timely read.
The Conflict Over the Conflict: The Israel/Palestine Campus Debate

Kenneth S. Stern
Monday, May 3

As a defense attorney and author, Kenneth Stern examines attempts from each side of the Israel/Palestine debate to censor the other. According to Stern, the campus is the best place to mine the Israel/Palestine conflict and our intense views about it to help future generations do what they are supposed to do: think. Stern is the director of the Center for the Study of Hate at Bard College and was the American Jewish Committee’s expert on antisemitism.

The Firsts: The Inside Story of the Women Reshaping Congress

Jennifer Steinhauer
Monday, April 26

In The Firsts, acclaimed journalist Jennifer Steinhauer focuses on the 35 women newly elected to the U.S. Congress in 2018 who helped make the 116th Congress the most diverse (by gender, race, ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic background) in the nation’s history. In an intimately told story, with detailed and thought-provoking portraits, The Firsts questions whether these women advanced legislation to help those they represent and whether they reframed the national debate.

Citizen 865: The Hunt for Hitler’s Hidden Soldiers in America

Debbie Cenziper
Monday, May 24

Drawing on Nazi documents and previously undisclosed government records, Citizen 865 is a definitive account of the hunt for Nazi killers living openly in neighborhoods across the U.S. The last OSI defendant ordered deported from U.S. soil was sent back to Germany just last year while the organization continues tracking war criminals who have slipped into the U.S. from new hot spots around the world. Cenziper is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and nonfiction author. She is a contributing reporter for the investigative team at The Washington Post and is the director of investigative journalism at the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

The Watergate Girl: My Fight for Truth and Justice Against a Criminal President

Jill Wine-Banks
Monday, June 7

At the crossroads of the Watergate scandal and the women’s movement stood a young lawyer named Jill Wine Volner, the only woman on the team that prosecuted the highest-ranking White House officials. Called “the mini-skirted lawyer” by the press, she fought to receive the respect accorded her male counterparts – and prevailed. In The Watergate Girl, Jill Wine-Banks takes us inside this troubled time in American history, and it is impossible to read about the crimes of Richard Nixon and the people around him without drawing parallels to recent headlines. Wine-Banks is a MSNBC Legal Analyst and the recipient of awards from the U.S. Department of Justice and Army.