Winter A Schedule 2024
Pembroke Pines Jewish Center
Members $10 / Non-members $20

SAMUEL ADAMS: REVOLUTIONARY RABBLE ROUSER, REACTIONARY, AND REDEEMED

Date: Tuesday, January 16
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Rebecca Staton-Reinstein

The British Parliament’s excessive taxes led to the Boston Tea Party, orchestrated by Samuel Adams. The event prompted the British to close the harbor, intensifying protests. Explore how Adams shaped pivotal documents like the Articles of Confederation, Massachusetts Constitution, and Bill of Rights, evolving from a radical to a prominent figure in American history.

ODE TO BEETHOVEN: THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

Date: Tuesday, January 23
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Anette Isaacs

To this day, German born Ludwig van Beethoven, who finished his iconic 9th Symphony (Ode to Joy) 200 years ago, is the most listened to creator of classical music. Join German Historian and OLLI Director Anette Isaacs for an intimate look at the life and times of this tragic genius who was as famous for his fiery personality as for his divine ability to turn his personal struggles into supreme and powerful melodies.

*Schedule subject to change. Visit https://olli.fiu.edu for the most up-to-date schedule or call 305-919-5900.
1789 TO 1914: MOMENTOUS YEARS FOR THE JEWS IN WESTERN EUROPE

Date: Tuesday, January 30  
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Instructor: John Ury and Desiree Rosenthal Israel

In this presentation we see significant progress for the Jews, freed from the ghettos in 1789 and lifted out of poverty because of the French Revolution. The gentile world opened up and they achieved equality as citizens in many countries. At the same time, assimilation created an Identity Crisis and religion was often left behind. The next 100 years saw amazing achievements by the Jews during the Second Golden Age 1870-1900 (Years of Opportunity), while emancipation created a backlash of hate and growing, dangerous antisemitism (Years of Danger).

ALL THE NEWS THAT’S FIT TO DISCUSS

Date: Tuesday, February 6  
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Instructor: Alan Fisher

This lecture will explore the current events taking place around the world at the time of the lecture. This session will be facilitated by Dr. Alan Fisher. You will also learn about the headlines four months before they appear in the Mass Media.

PUCCINI'S MELODIC TAPESTRY: A CENTURY OF TIMELESS OPERA

Date: Tuesday, February 20  
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Instructor: Dr. Alan Mason

Anticipate an engaging exploration into the world of Giacomo Puccini's music. As we approach the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his passing, Dr. Mason offers an enlightening perspective on his timeless musical masterpieces. You will be guided through the intricate web of Puccini’s compositions, where emotions and narratives harmoniously intertwine. Dr. Mason will showcase the fusion of Romantic and verismo styles that defines Puccini’s work, providing a deep appreciation for his lasting influence on the world of opera, even a century after his departure.

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TWO POPES AND THE HOLOCAUST

Date: Tuesday, March 5
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Anette Isaacs

Mitchell Kraus’ discussion will delicately delve into the historical realities surrounding the papacies of Pope Pius XI (1922-1939) and his successor, Pope Pius XII (1939-1958). These were times marred by the escalating persecution and tragic loss of Jewish lives. We will explore the complexities and ongoing debates concerning Pope Pius XII's actions, while also considering the fresh perspectives brought to light by the unveiling of Vatican records in 2020.

THE GERMAN VIRTUOSA: INSIDE THE LIFE AND TIMES OF CLARA SCHUMANN

Date: Tuesday, February 27
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Anette Isaacs

Not only was Clara Schumann a divine pianist, talented composer and successful teacher, but also a mother of 8 and the main breadwinner for her family. In the very male dominated 19th century, German superwoman Clara Schumann did it all while juggling a 61 year concert career that made her internationally famous. This class by OLLI Director and historian Anette Isaacs offers an intimate look at the life of the very exceptional Clara Virtuosa!

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BUT THEY WERE GOOD TO THEIR MOTHERS: JEWISH GANGSTERS IN AMERICA

Date: Tuesday, March 19
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Helene Herman

Helen Herman's lecture addresses a seldom-covered aspect of the darker side of the immigrant experience, delving into the rise and fall of Jewish gangsters who dominated crime from the 1920’s until the end of WWII. Beyond exploring famous crime figures (e.g., Bugsy Siegel, Meyer Lansky) and organizations (e.g., Murder Inc., The Brownsville Boys), you will learn about some lesser known but quite fascinating characters.

FROM DESPAIR TO HOPE: THE MUSIC OF SCHINDLER’S LIST

Please note that this program takes place on a Friday!

Date: Friday, March 29
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Thomas Cimarusti

John Williams' 1993 award-winning musical score for Steven Spielberg's epic Holocaust film Schindler's List remains one of the most recognizable contemporary works in American popular culture. Join Dr. Tom Cimarusti as he explores Williams' art, focusing on how the composer's music enhances the moving image and the film’s narrative, as well as how specific compositional techniques reinforce themes of sadness, hope, and Jewish identity.

FLORIDA STORES: RETAIL IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Date: Tuesday, April 2
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Sylvia Gurinsky

For more than 150 years, Florida has been home to a thriving retail community. Stores have been created by entrepreneurs ranging from immigrants to those looking for new opportunities. Some stores, such as Burdines, became legendary. Join Sylvia Gurinsky for a look at how Florida became a center for shopping and the experiences that come with it.
GREAT JEWS IN MUSIC: SURPRISES AND TREASURES
FROM THE MEDIEVAL TO THE MODERNS

Date: Tuesday, April 16
Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Instructor: Dr. Alan Mason

Dr. Mason will explore great classical and popular musicians and composers who have made careers for themselves based on their artistry, and not their Jewish identity. This is a phenomenon of the 20th century, when Jewish musicians and composers are mainstreamed into the professional musical community based on merit, talent, and contribution, without influence of their Jewishness.

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