Baldwin Wallace University

Institute for Learning in Retirement – East

2027 Winter Quarter Schedule

Baldwin Wallace University **Phone: 440-826-2400 Email: ilreast@bw.edu Website: bw.edu/ilr-east**

The Winter Term will begin on Tuesday, January 12, 2027, and run for six weeks, ending on Thursday, February 18, 2027. There will also be single-session talks offered during this period. Classes will be given at TEMPLE EMANU EL, at 4545 Brainard Road, Orange Village, Ohio 44022, just north of Emery Rd. Please note that registration is by postal mail only. To receive registration material if you are not currently on the mailing list, fill out the information request form or call 440-826-2400.

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING JANUARY 12, 2027

Art in Focus

ZOOM COURSE

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Presenter: Michael J. Kaplan, J.D.**

Back for more art? We'll continue our journeys through the Visual Arts. All new episodes are promised, of course, with destinations unknown. Perhaps a visit to Siena for the birth of painting? Perhaps a virtual trip to the Hermitage in Russia? (I'm sure I won't be getting there in person...) As always, we'll figure it out as we go -- and your suggestions and requests are always solicited. So come along and bring a friend or two. It may be cold, but we'll stay warm celebrating our shared heritage in paint and sculpture, while we hope for that New Birth of Freedom that Abe Lincoln promised us on a battlefield in 1863.

Chaos, Rebirth, and Renewal: How Medieval Europe Survived its "Dark Ages"

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Presenter: James Heaney, Ph.D.**

This course examines how Western intellectual and religious culture managed to survive the challenges of the collapse of Rome, centuries of barbarian warfare and resettlement, the massive loss of its literary heritage from the ancient world, and never-ending conflict over its most basic religious doctrines. From the fall of Rome in the West in the 5th century to the end of the Byzantine Empire in the 15th, we will see how figures as diverse as Augustine of Hippo, Maimonides, Peter Abelard, and Thomas à Kempis paved the way to the next great Western upheaval, the Renaissance.

Travel More, Pay Less: Master the Secrets of Smart Travel & Award Points

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Presenter: Marc Bakst**

Turn your dream trips into reality without breaking the bank! Think luxury international travel and frequent getaways are only for the wealthy? Think again! Whether you dream of taking more weekend trips or flying international business class for a fraction of the regular price, the key is knowing how to find the best deals and maximize travel rewards. Join veteran educator and independent travel consultant Marc Bakst for this engaging, in-person class. Learn practical strategies for finding affordable airfare, making the most of credit card rewards, and using points and miles to travel farther for less.

What You'll Learn: Smart Travel on a Budget — Making the Most of Points and Miles — Choosing the Right Credit Cards — Stretching Your Travel Budget

Whether you're a retiree, an empty-nester, or simply ready to explore more of the world, this class will give you practical ideas to help you travel smarter and spend less.

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING JANUARY 19, 2027

Mah Jongg for Beginners (4 sessions: January 19, 26, February 2, 9)

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Presenter: Julie Moss**

Mah Jongg was created in 19th century China and has grown from a male-dominated gambling game into a very popular American sensation. Combining critical thinking, strategy, memory, and luck, Mah Jongg is fun and easy to learn. Meet new friends and start a regular game together. If you have the 2027 Official Standard Hands and Rules card, bring it with you to class. If not, you can purchase one for $15 when you come to class.

WEDNESDAYS, BEGINNING JANUARY 13, 2027

The Grand Tour: European History through Paintings

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Presenter: James Shelley, M.A.**

In the short grey (or white) days of winter, this course will take you on a colorful, immersive tour of European art history from 500 B.C.E. to the present. Along the way, you will learn how to identify and analyze basic design aspects that will help you to unlock compositional secrets of paintings, adding layers of appreciation to future museum visits and art wherever you see it. Build upon your new aesthetic skills by taking ongoing art appreciation coursework (Art in Focus) offered through ILR-East.

Further Adventures in Math

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Presenter: Carl Sieke, M.S.**

Get ready for more fun with math. You'll see interesting and surprising patterns and connections in different mathematical topics. Math in high school was all about solving problems that you would almost never encounter in real life, problems that often took the dreaded form known as "word problems". We'll look at math from an entirely different perspective, a view that everyone can enjoy. You'll discover things that you (and I) never learned in school, where the answer to a question is not a number but an idea.

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING JANUARY 14, 2027

More Defining Moments in the History of British Monarchy

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Presenter: Teresa Marano, Ph.D.**

The monarchy guided the development of the British nation. This course will present and examine those events that defined the British monarchy during the developing of the nation including the English Civil War and Execution of Charles I, the Glorious Revolution and Bill of Rights, the Acts of Union, the evolution of crown to figurehead role during reign of Queen Victoria, the adoption of the House of Windsor name, the constitutional crisis created by the abdication of Edward VIII, the transition from Empire to Commonwealth of Nations, and the stabilization of monarchy and nation during reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

History of Comedy in the Second Part of the 20th century

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Presenter: Neil Oblonsky**

All the best comedy films, TV shows and comedians from Lucille Ball to Andy Griffith, "All in the Family" to Mary Tyler Moore. We'll explore the great films like "Some Like it Hot", "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World", "The Producers", "The Odd Couple" and "Blazing Saddles". We'll look at great comedians like Cosby, Carlin, Pryor and Rickles, learn why they worked, how they worked, and why they are still funny.

THURSDAYS, BEGINNING JANUARY 14, 2027 continued

The Pink Panther Series – Six Comedy Films

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Presenter: William Rafalski**

If you like to laugh, you will enjoy watching six movies that feature the comedy talents of Peter Sellers and Blake Edwards. The first film is the first "Pink Panther" movie released in 1963. The last one is "The Trail of the Pink Panther" released in 1982. I'll discuss the relationship between Sellers and Edwards, which was an ongoing battle between a movie star and a director. I'll go into details about each film, the animated credits and the musical scores. If you enjoy laughing, sign up for this course.

SINGLE SESSION PRESENTATIONS

History of the Cleveland Mafia

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, January 12 **Presenter: Doug Imhoff**

The Cleveland Mafia, also known as the Cleveland crime family, emerged during the early 1900's as Italian and other nationality immigrant communities grew in the city. During the era of Prohibition ("Corn Syrup and Blood Era"), the organization expanded its influence through illegal alcohol trafficking, gambling, and other organized crime activities. From 1930 thru 1975, a "Silent Era" for organized crime activities occurred in Cleveland with little violence, but still a powerfully run organization. However, in the mid 1970's, after crime boss John Scalish's death (he was the head boss for 32 years), there would be violent rivalries between the Cleveland crime family and Irishman Danny Greene (Cleveland called "Bomb City" with 40 bombings in 1976-1977). Danny Greene's killing in 1977 would later greatly weaken the family's power in the Cleveland underworld. We will also discuss the individual lives of Big Joe Lonardo, Joe Porrello, John Scalish, Moe Dalitz, Shondor Birns, Jackie Presser, Danny Greene and law enforcement officer Eliot Ness (Safety Director of Cleveland in the 1930's).

Let's go into the Wayback Machine

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, January 19 **Presenter: Gerry Nemeth**

We will look at a few places that no longer exist in brick & mortar but have a warm place in our hearts and memory. Retail: Uncle Bills, Gold Circle, Zayres, etc. Restaurants: Ground Round, Earth by April, Shorties, etc. We will also look at items that were considered tools of the trade: slide rules, French curves, and the like.

Surfing the Interesting, Surprising, and Humorous Internet

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, January 27 **Presenter: Carl Sieke, M.S.**

Join us to see some of the many different ways the internet entertains us, with pictures and video clips that I have collected over the years. All new material.

How Ohio Won the Civil War

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, January 13 **Presenter: Patrick Bray, Ph.D.**

Expand your Buckeye pride by exploring Ohio's vital contribution to victory over a would-be expanding slave-holding republic, the so-called Confederate States of America. Ohio was the native state to the Union's three best generals: Grant, Sherman, Sheridan; the highly effective Secretary of War: Edwin Stanton; four union soldiers who later became president: Grant, Hayes, Garfield, McKinley; and most of all the 350,000 plus Buckeye soldiers and sailors who secured Union and Liberty for our nation.

SINGLE SESSION PRESENTATIONS continued

Empty Desks: The Crisis in America's Higher Education System

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Tuesday, February 16 Presenter: Louis Raffis

I am a long-time member of the Kent State University Honors College Advisory Board, and so I stay somewhat plugged into issues effecting College Administrators at the strategic planning level. If you are a parent or grandparent of a college-age young person, or are just interested in developments in the field of higher education, this is a lecture for you.

American higher education is in crisis. We see it being attacked on multiple fronts. My talk focuses specifically on several major demographic issues that are impacting many schools, even those right here in Northeastern Ohio. Foremost among these are the sharp decline in the number of college-age young people in the U.S., and the decline in the number of young men choosing to attend college.

A number of colleges and universities in the U.S. have closed, and more are in financial difficulty. We will take a look at the health of Northeastern Ohio schools, which ones are struggling, which ones remain strong, and the overall outlook for the state's universities.

We will also look at what is happening to young men in higher education, how some schools are addressing the special needs of young men, and the work that still needs to be done.

If sufficient time remains, we will close the presentation with a brief review of the impact of Artificial Intelligence in the college classroom. How are Professors adapting to the new environment presented by AI ? What winning strategies seem to be prevailing in the classroom.

The James Webb Space Telescope-The Cleveland Connection

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, January 20 Presenter: James Marder, Ph.D.

The James Webb Space Telescope is one of the most powerful instruments ever used for exploring and explaining the structure of the universe. It is easily recognized in any photograph by the visual impact of the gold-plated hexagons of its primary mirror. Beneath the thin gold plate (which is only 200 atoms thick) is the actual mirror that maintains the shape and polished surface of the reflector. The mirror substrate, as it is called, is beryllium produced by Brush Wellman, a Cleveland-based company. The material used was developed on St. Clair Avenue specifically for space mirrors. This session will describe this mirror material and the "Why" and "How" of its development.

Decadent Chocolate Desserts – (Watch at your leisure AND sample on-site)

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The Tea is Tuesday, February 9 Presenter: Terry Betts, B.F.A., B.S.Ed

On YouTube, four decadent chocolate desserts will be made. Included will be an in-depth discussion on the history of chocolate. The desserts will be Chocolate Poundcake (an old family recipe), Smith Island Cake (from Maryland), Mint Chocolate Squares, and Chocolate Trifle. Recipes will be sent via email. Most importantly, each will be available to sample during this half hour on-site tea!

Maimonides' Holistic Health: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Nutrition for Aging Well

12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, February 17 Presenter: Dafna Ben Yosef, Ph.D

Dr. Ben Yosef is the Siegal Jewish Lifelong Learning Director, CWRU. This lecture explores Maimonides' holistic approach to health and nutrition, highlighting its relevance to modern wellness practices, particularly for aging individuals. A renowned medieval Jewish philosopher and physician, Maimonides emphasized balance, moderation, and the connection between body and mind. Participants will examine his recommendations for diet, exercise, and emotional well-being, drawing parallels with contemporary health guidelines for nutrition, heart health, and longevity. The session will cover how his teachings, such as focusing on plant-based foods and mindful eating, align with today's best practices for aging gracefully and maintaining overall well-being, offering timeless insights for a balanced lifestyle.