

Our Lecture Luncheon program, which meets four times each season at River Oaks Country Club, brings nationally recognized commentators to discuss issues and topics of current interest in a variety of fields. The lecture begins at 11:00 a.m., the luncheon at noon, and Q & A follows. The season's membership fee of \$350 includes the lecture, luncheon, and valet parking.

**Place: River Oaks Country Club, 1600 River Oaks Blvd.**

**Lecture: 11:00 a.m.**

**Luncheon: 12:00 Noon**



### **CHINA: THE SEARCH FOR SOFT POWER INFLUENCE**

**Jim Laurie**

**Friday, October 21, 2016**

Jim Laurie offers a unique inside perspective on China's effort to match its economic strength with a concerted effort to influence the general public. He will trace the changes in China and its media and entertain the question whether China is becoming freer or more repressive. A journalist and broadcaster for more than 45 years, Jim Laurie is currently director of the media consulting firm, Focus Asia Productions Ltd. Previously, he served as global correspondent for ABC News and NBC News. He is the winner of two Emmy Awards, a Peabody, and an Overseas Press Club Award. Specializing in the study of China's media, Mr. Laurie opened the first American television bureau in Beijing in 1981, and he reported from there on the events of Tiananmen Square in June 1989. He has interviewed many historically influential Asian leaders including China's Deng Xiaoping, the Dalai Lama, and Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk. The producer of several recent documentaries on Vietnam, China, and Japan, he is also the subject of a new documentary premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, *Last Days in Vietnam* as he was the only American network correspondent to cover the communist takeover of Saigon, Vietnam in April of 1975. As a journalist, Mr. Laurie has been witness to some of the defining moments in Asia's history over the past 40 years.



## **ELECTION 2016: A NEW DAY IN AMERICA— OR BUSINESS AS USUAL**

**JONATHAN KARL**

**Friday, November 18, 2016**

Jonathan Karl, ABC News' chief White House correspondent, covers the White House for *World News Tonight*, *Nightline*, and *Good Morning America*; he also served as the network's Senior Congressional Correspondent, Senior Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Senior National Security Correspondent, and Senior Political Correspondent. Mr. Karl has covered political campaigns in virtually every state and has reported from more than 30 countries, including Iraq, Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Sudan. He traveled internationally with the President, Vice President, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense. He has interviewed countless public figures, including Dick Cheney, General David Petraeus, Hillary Clinton, Robert Gates, and Donald Trump. Mr. Karl's extensive experience and political knowledge allow him to discuss foreign affairs, America's role in the post-September 11th world, national politics, and current events with insight and expertise. In 2001, Karl won the National Press Foundation's Everett McKinley Dirksen Award, the highest honor for Congressional reporting and in 2013 was awarded a Walter Cronkite Excellence in Journalism award.



## **FOUR PAINTINGS THAT INFLUENCED THE ART WORLD**

**Tina Rivers Ryan**

**Friday, January 13, 2017**

If you had to name the four most important paintings in Western art—the ones that most influenced the course of art, or history, or both—what would they be? (Mona Lisa, anybody?) While a fun exercise, when it comes to understanding art, ranking paintings in this way doesn't help us answer the more profound question of why art, and especially painting, has been so important to Western culture for hundreds of years. Through these paintings, Tina Rivers Ryan, a New York art historian and critic, will help us understand the significance of art in our culture. An experienced educator, she has developed and taught courses at Columbia University, the Pratt Institute, and the

Museum of Modern Art, and has lectured on art in more than twenty cities internationally. Her writing has appeared in notable publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *Art Journal*, as well as in several books, exhibition catalogs, and prominent websites. She holds a B.A. from Harvard, three masters' degrees, and a Ph.D. from Columbia, and has been a Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



### **FILMS THAT CHANGED AMERICA**

#### **MARC LAPADULA**

**Friday, February 17, 2017**

Marc Lapadula, playwright, screenwriter, and film historian, is an award-winning film producer and lecturer. Through the lens of his expertise, we will look at several truly outstanding films that have not only defined the era in which they were produced but have successfully transcended them. As Senior Lecturer at Yale University in the film studies program, Marc Lapadula has taught screenwriting seminars since 1992. As a playwright, he has produced his stage plays off-Broadway and elsewhere; they include *Not by Name*, *Two Shakes*, *Men Like Us*, *Last Order*, *The Rains Change*, *Serial Killer*, and *In Uniform Thanksgiving*. In addition to Yale University, Mr. Lapadula taught screenwriting, playwriting and film analysis courses at Johns Hopkins, the University of Pennsylvania (where he created and ran both universities' screenwriting programs), and Columbia University Graduate Film School, and he led the screenwriting series at the Smithsonian Institution. He graduated cum laude with a B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania, studied Irish and English drama at Oxford University, received his M.A. from Malcolm Bradbury's Creative Writing Workshop at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, and earned an M.F.A. in playwriting from the Iowa Writer's Workshop.