



OSHER 2024 SUMMER SERIES

We're excited about the upcoming Osher Summer Series. The lecture series starts on June 5 and is open to both Osher members and non-Osher members.

The schedule includes one online-only lecture with the remaining in-person lectures taking place in the **College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Building at Towson University** unless otherwise noted. Parking in the adjacent Towsontown Garage is included. Registrants will receive directions and parking information before the start of the Summer Series.

Each lecture will be approximately 90 minutes long, including Q & A.

Registration for the Osher 2024 Summer Series is a flat rate of \$75 per person for the entire series.

Topic	Speaker	Date	Time
The History of the Port of Baltimore	Jack Burkert	Wednesday, June 5	10:30 a.m.
Christian Nationalism, the Capitol Riot, and the Growing Threat to American Pluralism	Matthew Taylor	Wednesday, June 12	10:30 a.m.
The Captain, "Pop" Warner, and the Carlisle Indian School	Jacqui Hedberg	Tuesday, June 18	10:30 a.m.
Indigenous Americans in Statuary Hall	Jacqui Hedberg	Thursday, June 20	10:30 a.m.
EDENWALD: History of Ekphrastic Poetry	Michael Salcman	Wednesday, June 26	10:30 a.m.
ONLINE ONLY: Taking a Bite Out of Pop Culture: 50 Years of "Jaws"	Arnold Blumberg	Wednesday, July 10	10:30 a.m.
Effects of a Changing Climate on Public Health	Michael Allen	Wednesday, July 17	10:30 a.m.
South Africa from a Rural Perspective	David Berger	Wednesday, July 24	10:30 a.m.
The Bollywood Industry: History and Current Trends	Enakshi Roy	Wednesday, July 31	10:30 a.m.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change.

SUMMER LECTURES

The History of the Port of Baltimore

Jack Burkert

Wednesday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m.

The Port of Baltimore has been a gateway to prosperity and the world. Were it not for the port, Baltimore may not have existed as we know it. But the story of the port is more than the long touted “location, location, location” mantra. It is a story of the work of thousands of people written over hundreds of years. With every step forward there seemed to come a new challenge: competition from canals, the building of railroads, the upheaval of a Civil War and a dozen more problems and changes, each an obstacle to be overcome. Today, with the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, the port faces yet another challenge. We will look at the history of the Port of Baltimore and its resiliency throughout its history.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native who, in retirement, used his energy and interest in all things Baltimore to create educational programs. Jack lectures at Osher and other area programs. A 1969 graduate of the University of Maryland, Jack graduated with honors with a degree in history and education. His working life, some 40+ years, was spent in various educator roles, beginning with five years in the Baltimore City School system, later at the Pennsylvania State University, through private employers in Washington and New York City, and until his retirement a few years ago, in his own consulting firm. After returning to his hometown, his interest in history led him to create educational programs about Baltimore that inform and entertain both adults and young people. Jack enjoys researching the history of Baltimore, its port, businesses, people, and immigration.

Christian Nationalism, The Capitol Riot, and the Growing Threat to American Pluralism

Matthew Taylor

Wednesday, June 12 at 10:30 a.m.

The phrase “Christian nationalism” is increasingly in the news, but its definition and who qualifies as a Christian nationalist is very much debated. This lecture will draw on groundbreaking research by religion scholar Matthew D. Taylor to show the role that Christian nationalism and Christian leadership networks played in the January 6, 2021 attempted insurrection and how these same networks threaten American democracy.

Matthew D. Taylor, Ph.D., is a Senior Scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS) in Towson, where he specializes in Muslim-Christian dialogue, Evangelical and Pentecostal movements, religious politics in the U.S., and American Islam. Prior to coming to ICJS, Taylor served on the faculty of Georgetown University and The George Washington University. He is the creator of the acclaimed audio-documentary series “Charismatic Revival Fury: The New Apostolic Reformation,” which details how networks of extremist Christian leaders helped instigate the January 6th Insurrection. His forthcoming book, The Violent Take It By Force: The Christian Movement That is Threatening Our Democracy (Broadleaf Books), will be published in Fall 2024.

The Captain, “Pop” Warner, and the Carlisle Indian School

Jacqueline Hedberg

Tuesday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m.

After the Civil War, as Americans pushed further and further west, the US government was forced to deal with what it called “the Indian problem.” One military officer conceived of a plan to integrate Indians into American society by educating indigenous children to look and behave like white children. This was first tried at an Indian boarding school in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Captain Richard Pratt conceived of the idea. Glenn “Pop” Warner for many years was the school’s athletic director. Pratt changed US policy. Pop Warner and the Indians changed football.

Jacqueline Hedberg taught history in Baltimore County and with the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent Schools in Germany and Japan. Since retiring she has spearheaded the restoration of an historic graveyard on Hoopers Island, where she was born, and written extensively about her birthplace. She has taught Osher classes about slavery on the Eastern Shore, Reconstruction in Maryland, and Native Americans losing their land. Her research on slavery led her to write “Plantations, Slavery & Freedom on Maryland’s Eastern Shore” published by The History Press in 2019.

Indigenous Americans in Statuary Hall

Jaqueline Hedberg

Thursday, June 20 at 10:30 a.m.

The capitol building in Washington, DC is the law-making center of our country. It is also a magnificent museum, housing hundreds of pieces of art. One special installation is the Statuary Hall Collection, 100 statues given to the nation by its states. Eight of those statues represent indigenous Americans, special people whose ancestors lived here long before our nation was born. Who are they and why were they chosen to honor their state?

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EDENWALD: History of Ekphrastic Poetry

Michael Salcman

Wednesday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m.

Ekphrastic poems are poems about artworks and artists. In this presentation, you will see and hear poems as well as see the works and people who inspired them. The arc of history begins with Homer's description of the Shield of Achilles in *The Iliad* and is radically enlarged by John Keats and Robert Browning in the 19th century by having the object "speak" to the reader. Afterwards, the most popular subjects in the 20th century are narrative poems by W.H. Auden and William Carlos Williams about paintings by Pieter Breughel the Elder and Edward Hopper. Other ekphrastic poems by Anne Sexton, Sylvia Plath, and others are influenced by modern art movements like post-Impressionism and Surrealism. One of the first ekphrastic poems concerning abstract painting is by Richard Howard about a Morris Louis color field painting. More recently, Dr. Salcman has published poems about Joan Mitchell, Richard Serra, Jack Whitten, Frank Bowling, and Leon Polk Smith.

Michael Salcman, M.D., is a neuroscientist and brain surgeon. He is also a published poet and a collector of contemporary art. Dr. Salcman served as chairman of neurosurgery at the University of Maryland, and president of both the Contemporary Museum and the CityLit Project. He is a Distinguished Alumnus of Boston University's School of Medicine and Columbia University's Neurological Institute. He is the author of two hundred clinical and scientific papers, eight medical and neurosurgical textbooks, some translated into German, Spanish, and Portuguese, more than 50 articles on visual art, hundreds of published poems in journals such as Harvard Review, Hopkins Review and The Hudson Review, as well as ten collections of his own poetry, some of which have won prizes. He is known for his beautifully illustrated lectures on poetry and the visual arts.

NOTE: *This in-person lectures will be taking place at Edenwald Senior Living. (800 Southerly Road, Towson, MD 21286)*

ONLINE LECTURE: Taking a Bite Out of Pop Culture: 50 Years of "Jaws"

Arnold Blumberg

Wednesday, July 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Since its release in the summer of 1975, "Jaws" has been rightly regarded as one of the greatest blockbusters of all time – indeed, the movie helped to establish the very concept of the "blockbuster," transforming the entire film business as a result. Adapted from a novel by Peter Benchley, this thrilling adventure overcame a host of production obstacles, becoming a massive success in spite of every setback, launching a franchise, and inspiring a multitude of copycat films about sharks and other animals threatening humanity. This lecture will celebrate that legacy, and look at how director Steven Spielberg, composer John Williams, and a cast including Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, and Richard Dreyfuss crafted a cinematic classic that would inspire generations to think twice before getting in the water.

Arnold T. Blumberg is a pop culture historian and professor of multiple courses in media literacy and other cultural topics. He has taught at UMBC, the University of Baltimore, CCBC, and Osher at Towson University. He spent 15 years in the comic book industry as writer and editor of The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide, curated a pop culture museum for five years, and currently runs his own publishing company, ATB Publishing.

NOTE: *All Summer Series registrants will receive the link to this online lecture prior to July 10.*

Going to Extremes: Effects of a Changing Climate on Public Health

Michael Allen

Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Communities around the world are coping with a rapidly warming climate. Extreme heat, heavy rain events, wildfires, and severe storms are having a demonstrable effect on public health. Consequences of a changing climate include altered distribution of vectors and diseases. In this lecture, learn how climate and weather influence human health.

Michael Allen, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Planning at Towson University. A climate scientist and 2023 Fulbright Scholar, his research explores the intersection of weather and climate on human health particularly as it relates to extreme temperatures, climate variability and change. Dr. Allen previously served as the climate and health field editor of the International Journal of Biometeorology, the chairperson of Wetlands Watch, and co-coordinator of the Virginia Geographic Alliance.

South Africa from a Rural Perspective: Poverty in a Rich Land

David Berger

Wednesday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m.

This lecture will tell the story of Ga Maidi, a land rich in natural resources, and the people of Maida who have struggled to ensure that this wealth is used to promote a better life for all. In 1919, diamonds were discovered in Ga Maida. Outsiders quickly moved in and a 99-year struggle for control of mineral resources began. The struggle continued after the democratic elections of 1994 and in 2010, Kgosi Nyoko Motlhabane, the traditional leader of the Maida, addressed the committee on mineral resources of the parliament of South Africa by saying, "We will fight until victory to ensure that the wealth of our land is used for the benefit of the people." Learn how the Maida people have survived, adapted to changing circumstances, fought apartheid, and persisted through a tumultuous history.

David Berger, Ph.D., was the first American to complete a doctorate in South African history. He served as the president of the education fund in South Africa from 1986 through 1995. During that time, he also helped organize the Philadelphia portion of Nelson Mandela's U.S. tour in 1993. He served for over a decade as the COO for a South African environmental company. In 2006, he was recruited to assist the Maida community in their struggle to control mineral resources. He later founded a company registered by the Maida Traditional Council to manage economic resources in the community.

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