



ZOOM INTO SUMMER 2021

From the comfort of your living room sofa or with a cool poolside breeze, enjoy an array of topics from wherever you are this July and August. Zoom into presentations on local and national history, personal memoir, talk radio, anthropology, and economics.

Topic	Instructor	Date	Time
Becoming an American— A Personal Journey	Saima Sitwat	Wednesday, July 7	10:00 AM
Legacies and Hidden Lives: The Women of Hampton	Gregory Weidman	Wednesday, July 14	10:00 AM
The Road to the Constitution	Jared Day	Wednesday, July 21	10:00 AM
New Money: What is Cryptocurrency?	Liam Digregorio	Wednesday, July 28	10:00 AM
Tomorrow's Future: An Anthropological View	Samuel Collins	Wednesday, August 4	10:00 AM
The Boardwalk and the Beach— A History of Ocean City, Maryland	Hunter “Bunk” Mann & Christine Okerblom	Thursday, August 12	5:15 PM
Talking about Talk Radio with WBAL’s C4	Clarence Mitchell IV	Wednesday, August 18	11:00 AM
The History of Baltimore in Ten Buildings	Tom Chalkley & Brennen Jensen	Wednesday, August 25	10:00 AM

Becoming an American—A Personal Journey

Saima Sitwat

Wednesday, July 7 at 10 a.m.

Saima A. Sitwat emigrated from Pakistan to the United States in 2003. Her immigrant experience was defined not only by learning nuances of the American language and culture but also that of the American Muslims. A Muslim by birth, Saima would struggle to find her place within the American as well as the American Muslim community. Along the way, she would become a mother and a community leader. Through her recently published memoir, “American Muslim: An Immigrant’s Journey,” Sitwat leads us to explore some fundamental questions of our present-day world: What does it mean to be a minority and Muslim immigrant woman in America?

Saima Adil Sitwat is a writer and educator. Originally from Pakistan, Saima has recently moved to Baltimore from Pittsburgh where she served as the first woman president of the Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh (MAP). She is the author of her memoir, “American Muslim: An Immigrant’s Journey.” Her website is saimasitwat.com.

Legacies and Hidden Lives: The Women of Hampton

Gregory Weidman

Wednesday, July 14 at 10 a.m.

Gregory Weidman, curator, Hampton National Historic Site, will present a fully illustrated lecture on the remarkable lives of the women of Hampton estate from the 18th to the 20th century. Her presentation will highlight not just the remarkable women of the Ridgely family but also the lives of the enslaved and paid African American workers. Much of the information will be based on her recent research as Hampton Ethnography Project Staff Liaison and member of a team of scholars, historians, ethnographers, and researchers who worked on the multi-year study to uncover and document the lives and families of the individuals enslaved at the estate. Her presentation of important recent findings will focus on these newly illuminated lives, showing the broad range of historic records, archival materials, photographs, newspapers, and other sources that were used to explore the stories of these women, documenting their lives both before and after freedom, including identifying their family groups and the lives of descendants.

Gregory Weidman was named the curator of Hampton National Historic Site in Baltimore County in November 2008. She also serves as the curator for Baltimore’s other National Park Service site, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Recently, she served as staff liaison and research team member for the Hampton NHS Ethnographic Overview and Assessment, participating on an interdisciplinary team of scholars and researchers that has brought to light groundbreaking new information on the lives and legacies of those enslaved on the Hampton estate.

The Road to the Constitution

Jared Day

Wednesday, July 21 at 10 a.m.

Join Jared Day as he examines the transitional years of the 1780s when leading founders such as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and George Washington “invented” a process for revising the Articles of Confederation. This lecture will illustrate this journey of how the U.S. Constitution was drafted, ratified, and came into effect in 1789.

Jared Day, PhD, taught American history at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for sixteen years. His areas of specialization are U.S. political, urban, and cultural history as well as world history from the fifteenth century to the present. He is the author of several books along with numerous other popular and peer-reviewed articles. He now teaches at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, CT.

New Money: What is Cryptocurrency?

Liam Digregorio

Wednesday, July 28 at 10 a.m.

Have you been wondering about cryptocurrency? Just what is it and how many different cryptocurrency types are there? How are cryptocurrencies managed through blockchains? What is a blockchain for that matter? If you are trying to wrap your mind around cryptocurrency and its effects on the stock market, the impact on the environment, and whether older adults should consider investing in cryptocurrencies, this lecture is for you.

Liam Digregorio is immersed in the world of blockchain strategy and engineering. Currently working for PayPal, he is also a co-founder and advisor for the Berkeley Blockchain Xcelerator. He educates industry professionals and laypeople on blockchain and cryptocurrency fundamentals through Blockchain at Berkeley.

Tomorrow's Future: An Anthropological View

Samuel Collins

Wednesday, August 4 at 10 a.m.

It is difficult to think about the future without falling back on dystopia—after all, these past few months have been nothing if not that. But one thing anthropology teaches us about the future: it will be different from what we think and will surprise us in ways that question assumptions we are making right now about development, time, and inevitability. In this lecture, Dr. Samuel Collins introduces an anthropology for the future, one that may help us break from our present path dependencies and help prepare us for the surprising future.

Samuel Gerald Collins is professor of anthropology at Towson University. His research includes urban studies, social media, design anthropology, information technologies and the future in South Korea and the United States. Among other books and articles, he is the author of "All Tomorrow's Cultures" (Berghahn, 2021) and co-author (with Matthew Durington) of "Networked Anthropology" (Routledge, 2015).

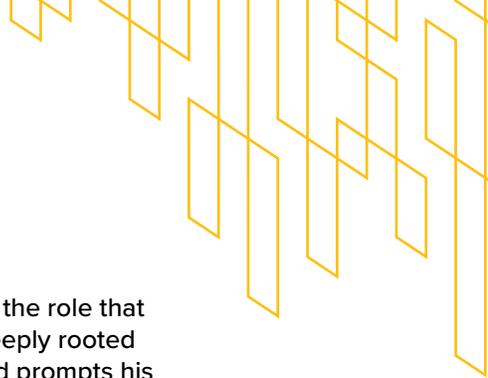
The Boardwalk and the Beach—A History of Ocean City, Maryland

Hunter "Bunk" Mann and Christine Okerblom

Thursday, August 12 at 5:15 p.m.

Take a walk down memory lane while also taking a tour of the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum and hearing from longtime "beach boy" and Ocean City historian, Hunter "Bunk" Mann. Christine Okerblom, curator of the Ocean City Live-Saving Station Museum, will show us around the museum and Bunk will give us background about the vanishing Ocean City of long ago. From storms and fires to fun and frolicking, learn about the beloved beach town that has welcomed many locals and tourists for ages.

Bunk Mann has written two books on the history of Ocean City, MD, "Vanishing Ocean City" and "Ghosts in the Surf." Currently semi-retired, he founded Mann & Gray Insurance Associates. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum. Christine Okerblom is the curator of the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum.



Talking about Talk Radio with WBAL's C4

Clarence Mitchell IV

Wednesday, August 18 at 11 a.m.

Local talk radio host, Clarence Mitchell IV, better known as C4, shares his thoughts on the role that talk radio plays in the media and in political discourse on local and national stages. Deeply rooted in his family's Baltimore and Maryland political tradition, he has independent views and prompts his audience to think critically about today's issues. Let's find out how C4 thinks about the role of talk radio in politics and culture today and how the medium has changed over the years.

Clarence Mitchell IV is better known to WBAL NewsRadio 1090 105 FM listeners as C4. He can be heard weekdays discussing news, politics, and other issues of the day. He grew up in Baltimore, attending Baltimore public schools and later going on to UMBC and Morgan State University. C4 has been awarded The Baltimore Sun's "Best of Baltimore Reader's Choice, Radio Personality" 2018 and 2019 and most recently the AP Chesapeake Broadcasters Association "Outstanding Talk Show" for 2020.

The History of Baltimore in Ten Buildings

Tom Chalkley and Brennen Jensen

Wednesday, August 25 at 10 a.m.

Brennen Jensen and Tom Chalkley, authors of "A History Lover's Guide to Baltimore," lead a brisk tour through the city's first 200 years, told through ten local structures—including homes, businesses, industrial buildings, and one famous fort. Discover interesting details about Baltimore's history through this fun-filled ride around the city and through different eras. Find out how Mount Clare, the Flag House, Lloyd Street Synagogue, The American Brewery, and others shaped Baltimore's history.

Brennen Jensen has written about Baltimore for more than thirty years, seven of those on staff at the Baltimore City Paper. A former senior writer for the Chronical of Philanthropy, he has also written for National Public Radio, CityLab, Residential Architect, Urbanite and national lifestyle publications such as Garden & Gun and the Local Palate. Tom Chalkley is an illustrator and writer, as well as a lifelong Marylander and Baltimorean since 1979. He contributed to the Baltimore City Paper from 1978 to 2008 and co-wrote, with Brennen Jensen and Charles Cohen, the paper's "Charmed Life" column about Baltimore history, culture and characters.