



OSHER 2023 SUMMER SERIES

We're excited about the upcoming Osher Summer Series. The lecture series starts on June 14 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 at Edenwald Senior Living in Towson, MD. Each lecture will be approximately 90 minutes, including Q & A. Lecture seating is on a first-come, first-served basis in the Edenwald Auditorium.

Registration for the Osher 2023 Summer Series is a flat rate of \$50 per person for the entire series.

Please note that the schedule is subject to change.

Topic	Speaker	Date	Time
The Elgin Marbles Controversy	Joseph Cassar	Wednesday, June 14	10:00 a.m.
The Brain as a Metaphor Making Machine	Michael Salcman	Wednesday, June 21	10:00 a.m..
What We Commemorate on Juneteenth	Richard Bell	Wednesday, June 28	10:00 a.m.
The Life and Death of Howard Cooper: A Lynching in Towson	Jennifer Liles	Wednesday, July 5	10:00 a.m.
ONLINE ONLY 100 Years of Warner Brothers	Arnold Blumberg	Wednesday, July 12	10:00 a.m.
America's World's Fairs	Jack Burkert	Wednesday, July 19	10:00 a.m.
The Great Mid-Century Acting Teachers: Strasberg, Meisner, and Adler	Greg Jones	Wednesday, July 26	10:00 a.m.
No Bones About It: The Role of Forensic Anthropology in Bringing Home the Missing	Dana Kollmann	Wednesday, August 2	10:00 a.m.

SUMMER LECTURES

The Elgin Marbles Controversy

Joseph Cassar

Wednesday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m.

This lecture provides a brief history of the Elgin Marbles controversy between Greece and Great Britain. You will learn the viewpoint of Greece and why it wants the Parthenon marbles back as well as Great Britain's arguments for their safekeeping in the British Museum. This presentation addresses the storm of controversies such as the historic removal of artifacts and a critical study on ownership of cultural artifacts and the return of antiquities to their places of origin. Do citizens and countries today have a claim of ownership on items produced in those regions thousands of years ago? The lecture also provides a critical analysis of the marbles in some detail, Greece's new state of the art museum in Athens to house the marbles, and the efforts that are still going on to return them to Greece.

Joseph Cassar, Ph.D., is an artist, art historian, curator, and educator. He is the author of several books and monographs on the pioneers of modern art of the Mediterranean island of Malta. He lectures at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, Notre Dame University, Towson University, York College of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University, the Community College of Baltimore County, and others. He currently designs online art courses for the New York Times Knowledge Network.

The Brain as a Metaphor Making Machine

Michael Salcman, M.D.

Wednesday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m.

C.P. Snow's classic book, "The Two Cultures", mistakenly presupposes that artists and scientists speak mutually incomprehensible languages. Today, many examples of contemporary artworks and scientific production closely resemble one another. Art Invention) and Science (Discovery), are both produced by the same type of brain. Poet Robert Frost believed poetry and science both used metaphoric thinking, "saying one thing and meaning another" and mathematician Henri Poincaré's classic essay demonstrates how the best solutions are precisely the most beautiful, that "invention is discernment." There are artists who think like scientists (Eakins) and scientists who think like artists (Einstein) and individuals (Leonardo) who do both. Because our brains are built to compare, making a metaphor is a very good example of how brains "think." Our brain has two tremendous advantages over other animals: (1) a very large number of cells and connections, and (2) a large amount of the human brain (80%) is non-specialized Association Cortex where different sensations can meet, and memories are stored. Today's imaging techniques demonstrate widespread activity in the brain during analysis of visual stimuli and while making metaphors. In fact, there is an area in the brain responsible for both the creation of metaphors and the ability to understand them.

Michael Salcman has worked in all three subjects of this lecture, poetry, visual art, and as a neuroscientist and brain surgeon. 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.

What We Commemorate on Juneteenth

Richard Bell

Wednesday, June 28 at 10:00 a.m

Over the course of four years, enslaved people worked to turn the Civil War into a freedom war. Slowly but surely, they pushed President Abraham Lincoln and his commanders in the field toward embracing emancipation as a war aim and to compel them to take the giant steps forward needed to abolish slavery once and for all. On June 19, 1865, the federal government finally met that objective, declaring slavery dead across the country. This momentous event marked a new birth of freedom—an occasion we now commemorate as Juneteenth.

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the book “Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home” which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. He serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Center for History and Culture and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

The Life and Death of Howard Cooper: A Lynching in Towson

Jennifer Liles

Wednesday, July 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Howard Cooper was an African American resident of Towson who was lynched in 1885 after being accused of assault and rape of a white teenage girl. We will learn about his family and his brief life before his lynching at the age of 15. Who were the players involved in the trials of Howard Cooper and who were participated in the lynch mob? This lecture aims to educate the audience about the only documented case of lynching in Baltimore County. We will also briefly discuss the history of lynching in American and in Maryland as well as the founding of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project.

Jennifer Liles is a public historian with a degree from Stevenson University in public history. Her interests lie in the history of Baltimore and Maryland. The industrial history and the people who have made Baltimore their homes are of special interest to her work with organizations such as The Baltimore Museum of Industry and Baltimore Heritage. She is also a researcher for the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project.

ONLINE ONLY 100 Years of Warner Brothers—That’s Not All Folks!

Arnold Blumberg

Wednesday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Warner Bros. was founded by four brothers – Harry, Albert, Sam, and Jack – who quickly established their shield-heralded brand via stars like Rin Tin Tin, Humphrey Bogart, and Bugs Bunny. From the earliest days of Hollywood to the modern era of streaming, the studio has grown from one of the original “Big Six” to a massive media empire. Their films are legendary, including classics like “Casablanca”, “Wizard of Oz”, “Gone with the Wind”, “A Streetcar Named Desire”, “North by Northwest”, “Ben-Hur”, and “2001: A Space Odyssey”, as well as their most recent franchise-driven productions in the worlds of “Lord of the Rings”, “The Matrix”, and DC Comics. We’ll take an all-too-brief look at a century of Warner Bros. thrills, chills, and laughs galore.

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 residents will receive the link to this online lecture prior to July 12.

America’s World’s Fairs

Jack Burkert

Wednesday, July 19 at 10:00 a.m.

World’s Fair’s once offered Americans an opportunity to learn about new tools and technology, encounter different cultures, and be informed of the very nature of their world. Attending a World’s Fair event was informative as well as entertaining. In this presentation, we take a look at the where, when, what, and why of the Fairs, surveying many of them -- along with some accompanying events that made them stand out in history. Tragedy and triumph, novelty and nuisance, the cultures that inspired or amazed them, profit but usually loss, all have been World’s Fair realities for over a hundred years. Many communities hosted these world class events to show themselves in the best possible light to the world—who they were, what they did, and their latest innovations. We will focus on ten American cities that were inspired to host a World’s Fair.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native who in retirement has used his energy and interest in all things Baltimore to create a number of educational programs. Jack lectures at Osher and other area programs. He works part time as an educator at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. 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.

The Great Mid-Century Acting Teachers: Strasberg, Meisner, and Adler

Greg Jones

Wednesday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Meet the gods and goddesses of 20th century American acting theory. Each had a hand in creating the modern concept of realistic acting, based on their understanding of the great Stanislavsky as well as their own experiences as part of the Group Theater. Contentious, irascible, demanding, and colorful, each in their own way created a coterie of devoted students who became the centuries most celebrated actors: Brando, Pacino, James Dean, Julie Harris, Geraldine Page, Joanne Woodward, Paul Newman, Maureen Stapleton, and scores of others who attributed their success at least in part to one of these giants. We'll hear from them via video clips, we'll see how they violently disagreed about the so-called "Method", and we'll see how some of these great actors employed what they learned.

Greg Jones is a local actor, playwright and teacher. He most recently portrayed three individual immigrants in the Annapolis Symphony production of "Ellis Island: The Dream of America". His comedy-drama "All Save One" received the Julie Harris playwriting award. A reading of his adaptation of Edith Wharton's "Roman Fever" will be performed at the Classic Theatre of Maryland in the fall where he is also slated to appear in the musical Shakespearean satire "Something Rotten". He holds a bachelor's degree in drama and a master's degree in English literature.

No Bones About It: The Role of Forensic Anthropology in Bringing Home the Missing

Dana Kollmann

Wednesday, August 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Forensic archaeology is a subdiscipline of the forensic sciences that is being increasingly utilized in casework involving the burial of people or objects. Whether the events that led to burial were intentional or accidental, and regardless of whether the incident occurred recently, or long-ago, forensic archaeologists have been instrumental in bringing resolution cases and healing to crime victims. Please join us and learn how practitioners of this discipline locate clandestine burials, apply their skills in mass fatality situations, provide evidence to war crimes tribunals and bring home U.S. soldiers who died in the Korean War, WWI, WWII, and Vietnam War.

Dana Kollmann, PhD, is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice at Towson University. She earned a Master of Forensic Science from Georgetown University and later earned a MA and PhD in anthropology from American University. Dana has over a decade of crime lab experience including her work as a forensic services technician with the Baltimore County Police Department. Dana has a variety of national and international anthropological and archaeological experiences including mass grave exhumation and victim identification in the former Yugoslavia. She serves as an archaeological consultant. She also serves as an anthropologist on the National Disaster Medical System's Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team. She is the faculty advisor for the Forensic Science Student Organization at TU, a group of students who are regularly requested by law enforcement to assist in the search for human remains and associated evidence.