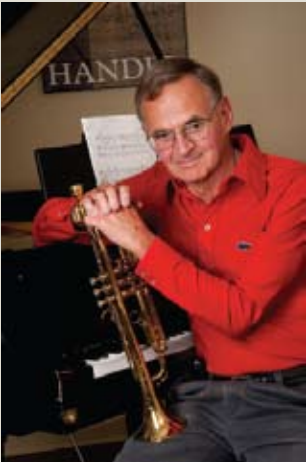


OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT
where curious minds gather

SPEAKERS CATALOG



Rochester Institute of Technology
OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT
The Athenaeum Building
50 Fairwood Drive
Rochester, New York 14623
(585) 292-8989 www.osher.rit.edu

The Osher Speakers

THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT RIT

OSHER, formerly The Athenaeum, is a unique educational organization that offers a wide-ranging choice of classes for adults over age fifty who have a thirst for lifelong learning. Courses are presented in a variety of fields: the arts, literature, sciences, history and government.

The Athenaeum, now the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, was founded in 1987 at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Members represent a wealth of backgrounds, and a wealth of professional and personal experiences. Courses are developed and conducted by members willing to share their experiences. Some classes are led by professionals who have distinguished themselves in their working years and are now eager to communicate their knowledge and insight. Other courses arise out of avocations or enthusiastic interests.

THE OSHER SPEAKERS

Osher is pleased to offer speakers to groups and organizations in the community through our Osher Speakers Program. Choose speakers for your organization from among the wide-ranging topics offered. Topic areas include the arts, literature, history, government, personal development and science/technology.

HOW TO SCHEDULE A SPEAKER

Find a topic of interest? Scheduling is easy. Simply call the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT, (585)292-8989 or email us at osher.info@rit.edu, and we will put you in touch with our Osher Speakers Program coordinator.

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General Subjects

Geography Matters

Geography is much more than memorizing the names of continents and reciting facts about South America. To understand the problems faced by our country and the world, one needs to be a geographically aware person. In this talk we will discuss how the physical and the human landscapes impact conflicts around the world.

Tim McDonnell is a retired teacher and a board member of the NY Geographic Alliance and its newsletter editor. He has received awards for his lessons from the National Council of Geographic Educators.

The Carousel

Learn what brought about the Golden Age of Carousels in the early twentieth century. Understanding the history of the magnificent classic carousels through discussion of the "anatomy" of the machine may take one back in time and enhance your enjoyment of that endangered magical ride.

Carol Samuel is an obstetrical nurse and prenatal educator, mostly retired. Her occasional childhood enjoyment of merry-go-rounds has developed into an abiding adult interest in antique, wooden carousels. As a member of the former Friends of the Rochester Carousels and as a current member of the National Carousel Association, Carol takes every opportunity to visit historic carousels locally and during travels around the country.

Why Mediate?

What Mediation is; What it Isn't; and What it Can Do

Mediation assists frustrated teens and parents, petulant neighbors, angry tenants and landlords, and warring parents trying to resolve child-custody issues peacefully. This talk will show how mediation works and discuss its benefits. A mock mediation will be included.

Flo Paxson is retired public relations professional who is a certified New York State mediator at the Center for Dispute Settlement. She serves as a volunteer mediator and has successfully mediated a number of disputes. She is a board member at the Center for Dispute Settlement and Media Chair at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT.

Acting: Choices and Listening

Acting is about choices: what the actors do with their body, face and voice. Acting is reacting; some of the most impressive and important acting is done when the actors are not the focus in the scene or don't have lines to speak. When they do become the focus, it must be in genuine response to what the others in the scene have said and done. How does all this happen? This talk will attempt to give a better understanding of that process.

Ed Scutt is a retired high school teacher who has been active in theatre his whole adult life. He is an award-winning actor and playwright as well as a director and a TANYS (Theatre Association of New York State) adjudicator. In the summer of 2009 he took advanced adjudicator training at the AACT (American Association of Community Theatre) Festival in Tacoma Washington.

Poetry and Art

The Art of Edouard Manet

Edouard Manet, a 19th century Modernist, paved the way to Impressionism. His art was influenced by works from artists like Titian and Goya and shocked the public with his modernist approach to his paintings.

Gisela Balents has always had a love for art and art history. She has taught many courses at Osher @ RIT.

Famous Faces and Famous Footwear

In 1986 Marilyn quit her job to see if she could become an artist. She taught herself to create watercolor portraits using three dimensional folded papers for the clothing of authors and artists she admired. She created sculptured clay shoes women have worn from Thebes to the present. The talk and slides will present an overview of her work as an artist.

Marilyn Gillespie is a self-educated artist. She has exhibited widely in the area and was selected to show in the Finger Lakes Exhibit three times. At the invitation of the Memorial Art Gallery, her seventy-two unique sculptures of women's shoes through the ages were featured for ten months under the title Fabulous Footwear.

Poetic Visions

Many people are discovering or rediscovering poetry. It is short, pointed and relevant. Whether one learns to write it or read and enjoy it, poetry has much to offer, especially today when it is experiencing a nationwide resurgence. Dr. Lehmann will read from his own work and those of other Osher students to reveal some little-known secrets about well-known modern poets.

Gary Lehmann has a PhD. in English Literature from Duke University. For the past ten years, Dr. Lehmann has been a teacher of poetry and other literature in the School of Liberal Arts at RIT.

Music

The Music of Duke Ellington

Duke Ellington was without peer in twentieth century American music. He was an original pianist, a composer of beautiful popular songs such as *Solitude*, a leader of a band that was active for an incredible fifty years, a unique arranger and the composer of extended works for jazz orchestra that expanded the definitions of jazz. This talk will describe and illustrate with recorded examples each of these attributes of this remarkable musician.

Peter Luce has been a student of jazz history for many years. He discovered jazz while in high school and the music has been a “mild obsession” ever since. His talk is based on research done in preparation for the courses he has taught at Osher.

Early Bob Dylan Songs

The 1960s were tumultuous years in many ways, quite noticeably in politics, civil rights and music (particularly folk music). This presentation is the story, with a good deal of music, about how Bob Dylan and others brought folk music into public popularity.

Bill Faul, a retired Kodak imaging scientist, trained in chemistry during the 60s but spent half of his thirty-two year Kodak career in digital imaging. He is now a devoted exerciser, trumpet player, collector of O-gauge trains, and a believer in the adage that “If you want to know more about something, teach it.”

Physical/Mental Activities

Mental Calisthenics

Research shows that “brain exercise” keeps one young and improves brain function. This talk, with a little audience participation, will explore a variety of “exercises” including analogies, cryptograms, crossword puzzles and acrostics, emphasizing the specific benefits of each. For adults of all ages!

Carole Haas became exposed to various puzzles while teaching gifted children in the Penfield School District. She has since become addicted to crossword puzzles.

Fitness: Better Late than Never

Turn back the clock. Become motivated to be more physically fit, even if you’ve been inactive in the past. Understand the four elements of fitness; strength, endurance, body-fat composition and flexibility. Learn what you can do at home to achieve a more youthful, healthy body

Elaine Zack was a behavior education counseling supervisor for the Nutri System Weight Loss Center and helped develop its national Behavior Education Manual. She received the 2003 Lifespan Second Half of Life Hero Award and a proclamation from the Monroe County Legislature for her contribution in health fitness. In May 2009 she was inducted in the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Seneca Falls and the Women's Movement

The talk will explore the political power keg that was Seneca Falls at the beginning of the Women's Movement. We will investigate the significance of the friendship between many prominent characters in the early Movement including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. We will see how the historical actions of those involved in the Movement all led to the establishment of the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls.

Patricia (Tricia) Bonosky, a Pittsburgh native, has lived in Fairport, NY for 34 years. She has a television background (Community Affairs Director, Promotion Director) and continues to perform as a voice-over artist and model/talent for commercials. Tricia has volunteered for various Rochester community groups including the McQuaid Jesuit High School plays (publicity, costume, make-up, hair). Her deep interest in anything related to the Women's Rights Movement led Tricia to become involved in the Induction Committee of the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. She is most proud to be the mother of three incredible adult children!

The Real Underground Railroad

Thousands of "Freedom Seekers" left slavery and headed north. Their stories have been either forgotten or turned into myths. In this talk, we will discuss what is really known about this Underground Railroad with a special emphasis on New York and the Rochester area.

Tim McDonnell, a retired teacher, is a board member of the NY Geographic Alliance and its newsletter editor. He has received awards for his lessons from the National Council of Geographic Educators.

Searching for the Erie Canal

When New Yorkers, led by DeWitt Clinton, constructed the Erie Canal in the early nineteenth century, it changed the state and the nation forever. Later on, two revisions of the canal were made: the enlarged Erie Canal and the Barge Canal, still in operation today. We will discuss all three canals and the remarkable "ruins" that we can all visit today from Albany to Buffalo.

Tim McDonnell presents this lecture; please see above for his profile

The 1942 Doolittle Raid on Tokyo

Next year marks the 70th anniversary of what historians have called one of the most dramatic, inventive, and heroic war exploits of all time - Doolittle's 1942 Raid on Tokyo. This presentation recreates the story of this event from using lecture, video clips, animation, and photos. The fascinating story of the planning, execution, and aftermath of the raid seems almost too exciting to be real history.

Jack Kowiak had a 30 year career at Eastman Kodak as a market research manager. He still enjoys researching and presenting interesting topics, especially fascinating events in history. Jack also sits on the board of the Rochester Memorial Society and is active in several local organizations.

A Visual History of Slavery in America

The Atlantic slave trade began in 1444 when a Portuguese ship ventured down the west coast of Africa to the Senegal River, and discovered that black slaves were easily acquired. This presentation will trace the 400 year history of the Atlantic slave trade and slavery in America by means of images and maps.

Neil Frankel was manager of engineering organizations and research labs at Xerox for 30 years prior to retirement. Now he has more time to read great literature, study history and participate in the Osher School at RIT. He has published a website on the Atlantic slave trade, and is currently writing a book about the slave years in America.

Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass in Rochester – In early 2010 the CD A Sky With More Stars - Suite For Frederick Douglass was released. The CD incorporates excerpts of Douglass's writings and speeches set to music including his famous Fifth of July speech delivered in 1852 at Corinthian Hall in Rochester. We will listen to some of these excerpts and highlight Douglass related sites in Rochester his home for twenty five years from 1847 to 1872.

This is a Power Point presentation. The equipment required is a laptop computer, digital projector and a CD player.

Hal Schuler became interested in Frederick Douglass while serving as a gorge guide for the Maplewood Neighborhood Association. Douglass fled the US after John Brown's October 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry from Kelsey's Landing which is just below Rochester's Lower Falls. He currently leads a series of five three hours walks, the Lower Gorge Explorer Series, which circumnavigate the lower gorge of the Genesee River discussing the history of the area along the way.

Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes is one of the best known fictional characters in history. The fifty-six short stories and four novels written by Arthur Conan Doyle between 1887 and 1927 have been translated into over 200 languages and have never been out of print. There are over 400 Sherlock Holmes societies around the world and thousands of articles and books have been written about the Sherlock Holmes canon.

Lewis Neisner is a retired marketing professor. He has had a lifelong interest in and love of Sherlock Holmes. While living in Maryland he was a member of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore and served as its Gasogene (president) for two years. At Osher, he has led six courses in Sherlock Holmes and is the founder of Rochester Row, a new Sherlockian society in Rochester.

Harry Potter for Adults

JK Rowling has given the world a literary gift: a series of books that appeal to children, teens and adults. Many scholars have explored reasons for the universal popularity of the Harry Potter series, only to find there is no answer. One thing is true, however; if one has read the series and meets another person who admits to being a wizard, witch, or muggle, the mutual reaction is laughter. How does her unusual humor help us see our magical world with compassion and hope?

Jeanne Sandholzer has a degree in English and taught middle school for twenty-one years. She has always had an interest in myths and children's literature.

Almighty God Bierce

Ambrose G. Bierce was a late nineteenth-century wit, satirist and curmudgeon. His collection of ironic definitions, *The Devil's Dictionary*, has provoked readers since his mysterious disappearance in 1913. His stories and columns perfected surprise endings and commented on the contemporary culture with acerbic insight. The talk will review the life and work of this underappreciated American critic.

Ed Scutt is a retired high school teacher who has been active in theatre his whole adult life. He is an award-winning actor and playwright as well as a director and a TANYS (Theatre Association of New York State) adjudicator. In the summer of 2009 he took advanced adjudicator training at the AACT (American Association of Community Theatre) Festival in Tacoma Washington.

Science and Technology

Nanotechnology in Our Lives

Nanotechnology is already in our everyday lives. This talk explores what is nanotechnology and discusses some of its current and future applications. Come and learn how the unique properties of nanomaterials open up new opportunities in innovative drug-delivery systems, cancer treatments, ultra-strong lightweight metals, and many other uses. We will also review what we know about the effects of nanostructures on human health and the environment.

Bob Vukosic's professional career has involved the application of cutting edge technologies to the development, design and manufacturing of complex business and professional products. He continues to pursue and track the progress of the latest scientific developments and enjoys discussing these with others.

Is Your MasterCard Safe on the Internet?

You have been searching for that special book and finally find it at Amazon.com. You purchase it over the Internet using your credit card. Is the transaction safe? Are you doomed? Follow us through history from Julius Caesar through the Middle Ages and into World War II as we trace the sometimes humorous history of secrecy and cryptography. We will finally come to the Internet and describe the clever modern cryptographic methods used to ensure safe electronic transactions.

Ed Salem is Professor Emeritus, retired from the department of Electrical Engineering at RIT. While at RIT, Ed taught courses in signal and image processing. He is currently a member of Osher where he teaches courses in computers and mathematics.

Using Scientific Logic to Solve Sudoku Secrets

Participants in this seminar will learn to solve Sudoku Puzzles using strategies that are easy to implement, fun to do, and are effective on both easy and more challenging puzzles. Just simple logic, not math, is involved, and an easy-to-use markup notation gets fast results.

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It's All in Your Head

Is it really possible to change the structure and function of the brain, and in so doing alter how we think and feel? The answer is a resounding "Yes". Through the eyes of Wall Street Journal science writer Sharon Begley we will see how cutting edge science and the ancient wisdom of Buddhism have come together to show how we all have the power to literally change our brains by changing our minds.

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The Science of Global Warming and its Solutions

This talk presents the basic science behind the world's current global warming and how we know what we know. Designed for those who are aware of global warming but don't know the details, it touches on the history of Earth's temperature, symptoms and consequences of the Earth's warming, how greenhouse effects work, and its likely causes. It outlines possible actions that can be taken to slow down the warming.

Beth Vanfossen is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at SUNY Brockport where she taught for fifteen years. Fascinated with the controversy over global warming, she has led three classes at Osher on the science and solutions of global warming.

Ethical Issues

The Power to Divide: Stem Cell Research

This talk covers the basic science of stem cell research. Ethical and regulation issues are covered as well as political and economic implications. Specifically these facets and issues will be reviewed: What is stem cell research? What distinguishes the different approaches? What are the ethical questions regarding this research? What is the current position of the Federal government? Why are states vying for leadership in stem research? What is the potential economic impact? What are the legal restrictions regarding stem cell research?

Bob Vukosic's professional career has involved the application of cutting edge technologies to the development, design, and manufacturing of complex business and professional products. He continues to pursue and track the progress of the latest scientific developments and enjoys discussing these with others.

Concepts in Medical Ethics

Medical practice, research, and public policy around medical issues are fraught with moral choices that result in ethical conflicts. The ethical concepts of autonomy, beneficence, paternalism, nonmaleficence and justice will be defined. Examples of dilemmas in physician-patient relations, patient autonomy, reproductive medicine (including abortion, pregnancy and assisted reproduction), end-of-life issues, organ donation, genetics and stem-cell research will be introduced, and a framework for ethical decision-making will be offered.

Victor A. Poleshuck, M.D., is Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Emeritus at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. He has taught medical ethics and has served as Chair of the Ethics Committee and the Ethics Consultation Service at Rochester General Hospital.
