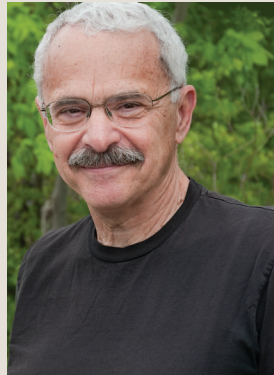


OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT
where curious minds gather

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

Bridge Building Between the Hearing and Rochester's Deaf Population

Learn from pros! Frances (hearing) and John Ratcliffe (deaf) have built bridges between deaf and hearing for over 50 years. We have lived in two worlds and understand the problems that exist in community and business relationships. We will touch on communication problems and deaf culture. We hope we can make you understand that the deaf community is just like you and me; they want respect; they want to enjoy everything that Rochester has to offer for everyone.

John Ratcliffe was born deaf to hearing parents. He met **Frances** on a blind date at an RIT fraternity dance in 1953. This began a lifetime of living in two worlds, and as a couple they have bridged the gap, by teaching Deaf Culture and sign language to whoever will listen.

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.

Collections: Windows Into the Past

Almost everyone has been a collector, and every collection has a history, whether it is personal, cultural, factual, or all of the above. Discovering ways to learn about, preserve, and share this history can add to the joy and value of being a collector.

Florence Smith worked for fifteen years at Strong Museum in the Education Department. She developed lessons and programs for both children and adults based on the collections used in museum exhibits.

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.

The Words We Work and Play With

The English language, having evolved from at least three major roots over more than a millennium, is probably the hardest to learn and the easiest to use, misuse and play with. By concentrating on its words, Daan Zwick shares the fun inherent in "our" mother tongue.

Daan Zwick, a retired research scientist, has discovered that there is a life after Kodak, especially at Osher. Volunteering to teach courses in new fields is a wonderful way of experiencing that new life.

Beginning Birding

Learn to identify birds in your own backyard and neighborhood. We will look at three factors: size, bill and habitat. Comparing pictures of common birds of the area will help us.

Sharon Galbraith, a retired teacher, has been an outdoor lover all her life. An elective in ornithology in college focused her interest on birds and their habits. Retirement has brought increased time and opportunity to enhance and deepen her knowledge and enjoyment.

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

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.

New York History

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

Adventures in the Archive: A Whole New Valentown

The Valentown Museum has emerged over the last few years quite different from what it has been in the past. Dr. Gary Lehmann will describe in detail the new Valentown and take you through a tour of some of the 40,000+ treasures of the Valentown Archive rarely available for viewing by the general public.

Dr. Gary Lehmann is Curator of the Valentown Museum, Victor, NY and its chief archivist. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Victor Historical Society which owns and runs the museum.

Civil Liberties in Times of National Emergency?

Do features of the Bill of Rights impair national security? Can we afford to maintain rights to privacy, free and open speech, and due process of law in a post-9/11 world? Is it possible to be both safe and free?

Daan Zwick, a retired research scientist, has discovered that there is a life after Kodak, especially at Osher. Volunteering to teach courses in new fields is a wonderful way of experiencing that new life.

Presidential Leadership

This talk focuses on the different styles of leadership of American presidents by linking their personal characteristics and political backgrounds with challenging issues of their times. The talk will develop a basis for comparing different types of presidential leadership and will emphasize which presidents have been more effective in their decision choices. Examples include Roosevelt and the New Deal; Kennedy and Cuba; Nixon and Watergate; and George H.W. Bush and the Persian Gulf War and George W. Bush and the war in Iraq.

Alan Shank is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at SUNY Geneseo where he taught for thirty-one years. Alan has written several books on the American presidency. He has taught classes at Osher on American Presidents and Crisis Decisions and the Great Decisions Program of the American Foreign Policy Association.

U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy: Past Performance and Future Prospects

The presentation will briefly trace the history of our foreign defense policy and the dominant theories that they shape. The emphasis shifts to the problems created during the Bush years and the efforts of the Obama Administration to change the tone and approach used in our dealings with other nations.

Bob Getz is a retired Professor Emeritus of Political Science, SUNY Brockport with areas of specialization in the Presidency, Congress and gender politics.

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.

Women in History

Women of the Bible

Our subjects will range from Genesis to the four gospels. Included will be Eve and Lilit; Ruth and Naomi; Orpha and Tamar; Deborah and Jael; Sarah and Hagar; Miriam and Noah's wife; Mary and Martha; Judith and Mary Magdalene.

Ruth Lebowitz is a retired executive secretary and has always had an avid interest in history, especially women in history. As an orthodox Jewish woman, Ruth has been most interested in the strengths and weaknesses of women in the Bible. The Torah (Old Testament), prophets, and writings give wonderful pictures of our matriarchs and female leaders. She is delighted to share some of their stories.

Eleanor Roosevelt: The Early Years

The woman who became America's most prominent First Lady and ultimately "First Lady of the World" was profoundly shaped by the traumas and loneliness of her childhood and family life. This talk follows Eleanor's life until FDR entered the White House. We will trace the developments within and without her marriage that framed and influenced her White House years and beyond.

Kathy Krebs is a retired school counselor having practiced for almost thirty years. Initially an undergraduate and graduate major in political science, she has never lost her fascination and love for history and studying the great tides of political change. She is a long-time admirer of Eleanor and respects her all the more having researched and presented a course at Osher. Eleanor's indomitable spirit challenges us all to discover our best selves.

Eleanor Roosevelt: The White House and Years Alone

Mrs. Roosevelt's passions and causes brought justice and life improvements to many individuals and ultimately masses of Americans and others around the world. Her championing the rights of women, workers, youth, and African-Americans made a real difference during the Depression, World War II and in post-war America. We will explore her public and personal life after 1932 and the unique legacy that echoes down the years, inspiring us even today.

Kathy Krebs presents this lecture; please see above for her profile.

Hatshepsut: Female Egyptian Pharaoh

Throne succession in Ancient Egypt was intended to be patrilineal. How, then, did Hatshepsut rule as king? This talk will explore the existing political situation and the fascinating woman who was an outstanding example of the Golden Age of Egypt.

Dori Saltzman retired from a career in education. She has been interested in Egypt since she was a child. After a visit to Egypt, she became even more interested in the Pharaoh period of Egyptian history.

Literature

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.

Great and Small Writings of Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie combines a vivid imagination, broad training in history, and an unusual command of language to produce masterworks of writing. Daan has enjoyed reading Rushdie's great novels and his many short stories and essays. He especially enjoys sharing this pleasure with others.

Daan Zwick, a retired research scientist, has discovered that there is a life after Kodak, especially at Osher. Volunteering to teach courses in new fields is a wonderful way of experiencing that new life.

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.

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.

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.

Bob Vukosic presents this lecture; please see above for his profile

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.
