

Osher Speakers

TOPICS CATALOG

NEED A SPEAKER?

- **Looking for speakers for your organization?**
- **This catalog offers speakers on a wide variety of interesting topics.**
- **Speakers are made available through The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT.**



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT

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Rochester, NY 14623

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CATALOG #3

TO SCHEDULE: CONTACT FRANCES RAPPORT 226-2341

THE OSHER SPEAKERS

THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT RIT

OLLI, formerly The Athenaeum, is a unique educational organization that offers a wide-ranging choice of classes to adults over age 50 who have a thirst for lifelong learning. Courses are presented in a variety of fields: among them are 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, 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

Through this catalog, OLLI 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 contact Frances Rapport, The Osher Speakers program coordinator by phone or e-mail.

Frances Rapport, phone 226-2341

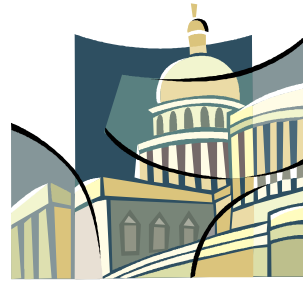
Or e-mail: frapport@hughes.net

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GOVERNMENT & HISTORY

CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES

In the last 12-15 years, partisanship and gridlock have become more pronounced in Washington. The adage that “politics is the art of compromise” has less meaning. Why has this happened and what are the implications for the President’s agenda?



SPEAKER: BOB GETZ

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

HISTORY OF IRONDEQUOIT & ALLENS CREEK VALLEY

Enjoy a fascinating look back at local history through a slide show and discussion of the history of Irondequoit and Allens creeks. This is a story of French explorers, pioneers, creek mills and the building of the Monroe County suburbs.

SPEAKER: WILLIAM HOSLEY

William Hosley is an amateur historian and a member of the Rochester Historical Society, Historic Brighton, Historic Pittsford and Penfield Heritage. He is the author of *History of Irondequoit and Allens Creek Valleys*.

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GOVERNMENT & HISTORY

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP

This talk focuses on the different styles of leadership of American presidents by linking their personal characteristics and political background 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. and the Persian Gulf War and George W. and the War in Iraq.

SPEAKER: ALAN SHANK

Alan Shank is Professor Emeritus of Political Science from SUNY-Geneseo where he taught for 31 years. Alan has written several books on the American presidency. He has taught classes at The Athenaeum on American Presidents and Crisis decisions and the *Great Decisions Program* of the American Foreign Policy Association.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MENTAL CALISTHENICS

Research shows that “brain exercise” keeps you 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.

SPEAKER: CAROLE HAAS

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



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LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

JANE AUSTEN: WHY IS SHE STILL A BEST SELLER?

Jane Austen continues to outsell most modern novelists with her subtle irony, psychologically acute characterizations and sparkling wit. This talk will explore the late 19th century society Jane Austen uncovers and the economic driving force of the time: marriage.

SPEAKER: ANN OWENS

Ann Owens has taught literature and writing at local colleges and at The Harley School.



BILLY COLLINS: AMERICAN POET LAUREATE

In 2001, the Library of Congress appointed Billy Collins to a two year term as the United States Poet Laureate. The poetry of Billy Collins has evoked an unprecedented public response. Poetry suddenly became a popular subject. Book sales of his works have broken records and he has had speaking engagements across the country. No poet since Robert Frost has been as popular.

Collins' poetry has been described as both humorous and serious reflections on the feelings, needs, and experiences of everyday people. His poems are readily understood by everyone. The talk will include information about Collins' life and readings from his poetry, as well as audio recordings of his Billy Collins reading from his own works.

SPEAKER: ROSELLE FINE

Roselle Fine is a retired psychotherapist who worked with people having marital, family, or sexual problems. During the past ten years, she has been teaching classes about the lives and poems of Laureate Poets such as Billy Collins and Robert Frost.

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LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

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.

SPEAKER: DAAN ZWICK

After 42 years as a research scientist, Daan Zwick has discovered that there is a life after Kodak, especially at The Athenaeum. Volunteering to teach courses in new fields is a wonderful way of experiencing that new life.



POETIC VISIONS

Many people are discovering or rediscovering poetry. It is short, pointed and relevant. Whether you learn to write it or read and enjoy it, poetry has much to offer, especially today when it is experiencing a nation-wide resurgence. In a lively and interesting presentation, Dr. Lehmann will read from his own work and those of other Athenaeum students to reveal some little-known secrets about well-known modern poets

SPEAKER: GARY LEHMANN

Gary Lehmann holds a PhD. In English Literature from Duke University. For the past 10 years, Dr. Lehmann has been a teacher of poetry and other literature in the School of Liberal Arts at RIT.

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LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

THE DARK AND HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL PROSE OF CORMAC MCCARTHY

From a cult author worshipped by a small group of academics, to a best-selling author with national acclaim, Cormac McCarthy is now regarded by scholars and critics as one of the finest American literary voices of the twentieth century. The presentation will be an overview of both his four southern novels and his five western novels, including *The Border Trilogy*.

SPEAKER: FRANCIA ROE

Francia Roe has a master's degree in English from the University of Rochester and taught advanced placement literature and language courses for 28 years.

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 Zwick has enjoyed reading Rushdie's great novels and his many short stories and essays and he especially enjoys sharing this pleasure with others.

SPEAKER: DAAN ZWICK

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GENERAL INTEREST

THE CAROUSEL

Carol Samuel's talk will cover the history of the carousel, the anatomy of the carousel and the various styles of carvers. The care and preservation of the animals and other parts of the carousel will also be discussed. Sources of information will be available for more investigation by participants if desired .

SPEAKER: CAROL SAMUEL

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 following an exhibit of this American art at the Rochester Museum and Science Center in 1988. 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

SPEAKER: FLORENCE SMITH

Florence Smith worked for 15 years at Strong Museum in the Education Department. There she developed lessons and programs for both children and adults based on the collections used in museum exhibits.

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THE ARTS

THE MUSIC OF DUKE ELLINGTON

Duke Ellington was without peer in 20th 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 50 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.

SPEAKER: PETER LUCE

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 18-session course on Duke Ellington that he taught at The Athenaeum.

BLOWING, CHANGING, ROLLING AND PLAYING – SOME EARLY POPULAR SONGS OF BOB DYLAN

The 1960’s were tumultuous years in many ways. Three quite noticeable areas were politics, civil rights and music, folk music in particular. Folk music in the 1950’s had been a minor interest of most people. This presentation is the short story, with a good deal of music, about how Bob Dylan, and others, helped to change that situation.

SPEAKER: BILL FAUL

Bill Faul, a retired Kodak imaging scientist, trained in chemistry during the ‘60’s but spent the second half of his 32 year Kodak career in digital imaging. He is now a devoted exerciser, a trumpet player, a collector of O-gauge trains and a believer in the adage: “If you want to know more about something, teach it.”

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SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

EFFECTIVELY USING YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER

Gene Bailey will talk and answer questions about personal computer main components, peripherals and their function. He will also discuss the Windows operating system and popular applications software.

SPEAKER: GENE BAILEY

Gene Bailey has been using main frame and personal computers for more than forty years. He worked as an analyst and manager at Xerox and as a computer consultant and network administrator. Gene has taught computer programming at Monroe Community College. He is currently teaching at OLLI, Lifespan and the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

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, you need to be a geographically-aware person. In this talk we will discuss how the physical and the human landscapes impact conflicts around the world.

SPEAKER: TIM MCCONNELL

Tim McConnell, 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.

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SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

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 the Second World War 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.

SPEAKER: ED SALEM

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY: FROM CAMERA TO COMPUTER

The world of photography has experienced a major revolution over the past 15 years with the advent of digital imaging. Learn what is meant by a digital image and what features to consider when buying a digital camera. Observe how digital images make their way onto computers and more importantly, explore the absolute magic and fascination of manipulating the computer images to create all sorts of wondrous effects. This is a hobby for all of us, young or old, beginner or seasoned veteran. Let this talk open the door for you to the wonderful world of digital photography.

SPEAKER: ED SALEM

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 the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT where he teaches courses in computers and mathematics and he welcomes you to join him there.

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SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

NANOTECHNOLOGY: HOW IT MIGHT IMPACT YOU

Nanotechnology is a revolutionary approach that seeks to build machines “from the bottom up,” linking atoms or molecules together to create larger structures. Researchers envision thumbnail-sized “laboratories” that could prepare personalized pharmaceuticals or nanodevices that navigate the bloodstream seeking out and destroying cancerous cells. This talk will briefly define nanotechnology in layman’s terms and discuss the potential benefits and concerns that could result from the application of this technology.

THE POWER TO DIVIDE

This talk covers the basic science of stem cell research. Ethical and regulation issues are also covered as well as political and economic implications. Specifically these facets and issues will be reviewed:

Scientific—What is stem cell research? What distinguishes the different approaches?

Ethical—What are the ethical questions regarding this research?

Political—What is the current position of the federal government?

How did President Bush arrive at his position?

Economic—Why are states vying for leadership in stem cell research? What is the potential economic impact?

Legal—What are the legal restrictions regarding stem cell research?

SPEAKER: BOB VUKOSIC

Bob Vukosic is a retired mechanical engineer whose professional career involved the application of new technologies to the development, design and manufacturing of complex business and professional products.

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