



# Osher 2016 Summer Series

at 7400 York Road



Spend the summer with  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
at Towson University!

The 2016 Summer Series includes  
movies and a variety of lectures—  
something for everyone!



TOWSON  
UNIVERSITY

## MONDAYS AT THE MOVIES WITH ERIC GRATZ

### Exploring Relationships

**Mondays: June 13, June 27, July 11, and July 25**

**1:00-3:30 p.m.**

The four films in this film series were selected for their emphasis on remarkable relationships between characters, their crucial meanings, and subtle textures.

*Far from the Madding Crowd* (2015), based on the classic novel by Thomas Hardy, tells the story of a headstrong and independent Victorian young woman, Bathsheba Everdene. Three different suitors: a rough-hewn sheep farmer, a handsome soldier, and a prosperous bachelor are all attracted to this illusive female. It is a timeless love story as passions emote and resilience of personality maneuver the relationships to a formidable conclusion.

*The Last Picture Show* (1971) is a classic film story of frank, bittersweet relationship dramas in a small Texas town. A story ahead of its time, it addresses social and sexual mores clearly and honestly. The viewer is privy to psychodynamics that modern day film stories have copied again and again without the uniqueness of this masterpiece.

*The Little Foxes* (1941) is an adaptation of Lillian Hellman's play by the same name. Regina Hubbard Giddens, along with her brothers, demands ownership of a cotton mill at the turn of the century in the old South. The unscrupulous greed stops at nothing and thus destroys all the relationships that had such high expectations and aspirations.

*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2011) is based on Jonathan Safran Foer's acclaimed bestseller. It is a soulful and beautiful story of an eleven year old boy's quest to find the lock for the key that allegedly belonged to his deceased father. Along the way, Oskar encounters and relates to an eclectic assortment of people who assist him in confronting his fears about the noisy, dangerous world surrounding him.

**Eric Gratz**, LCSW-C, has been a marriage and family counselor in private practice for 50 years. He has been a film enthusiast since childhood, finding films to be both therapeutic and educational. He regularly offers film series for the Osher Institute.

## LECTURE SERIES

### Social Movements Through Political Buttons of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s—Exhibit and Lecture

**Fred Pincus, Natalie Sokoloff, and Dean Pappas**

**Thursday, June 2**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

Although political buttons have often been associated with mainstream electoral politics, especially presidential campaigns, radical activists have used them for decades. The 300+ buttons in this exhibit are a small selection of buttons used by radicals in the '60s, '70s, and '80s. The buttons are displayed by theme—anti-war, anti-nuke, women's liberation, anti-racism, African and Latin American solidarity, political repression, worker solidarity, and gay liberation. Buttons specifically related to Baltimore are also part of the exhibit. Osher members are encouraged to arrive by 10 a.m. to view the buttons which will be displayed in room 113. Many of you probably wore some of the buttons back in the day. At 10:30 a.m., please come to room 101 to hear the speakers discuss the significance of the political buttons.

**Fred Pincus, Natalie Sokoloff, and Dean Pappas** are Osher members and lifelong activists. Fred taught sociology at UMBC; Natalie taught sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY); Dean taught physics at the Friends School of Baltimore.

### Albert Einstein: Science, Politics, and Religion

**Steve Gimbel**

**Tuesday, June 7**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

Albert Einstein not only influenced the course of history, he was deeply influenced by it. Einstein's theory of relativity reshaped the way we understand space, time, energy, and motion; but his influence extended well beyond scientific circles. He was a very political person, influential in Europe and America. His sciences created the possibility for atomic weapons, but it was his letter to Franklin Roosevelt that helped to launch the Manhattan Project. It was a letter he later regretted as he worked diligently to prevent the nuclear arms race he helped begin. We will examine the ways in which Einstein's views on the universe, religion, and human life created the modern world.

**Dr. Steven Gimbel** is professor of philosophy at Gettysburg College where he held the Edwin T. and Cynthia Shearer Johnson Chair for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities. His latest books, *Einstein's Jewish Science: Physics at the Intersection of Politics and Religion* and *Einstein: His Space and Times* were reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Times of London*, *the New York Review of Books*, *Scientific American*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

## LECTURE SERIES

### **The Buzzing of the Bees**

**Robert Mardiney**

**Wednesday, June 15**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

That buzzing you hear in the garden is often the sound of bees, busy collecting food and pollinating flowers. Our native bees, including bumblebees, carpenter bees, and dozens of other species have unique adaptations and fascinating behaviors that allow them to survive in different habitats. Bumblebees, for example, will “buzz pollinate” a flower by vibrating their bodies in order to release pollen. Discover important ecosystem services bees provide, and learn how to ‘read’ a flower (shape, size, color) to determine which pollinator it is designed to attract. Comparisons will be made with non-native honeybees imported to this country in the 1600s.

**Robert Mardiney** has been the Director of Education at Irvine Nature Center for 30 years. He holds an M.S. in Environmental Education from Cornell University and a B.S. in Biology from Vassar College. Mr. Mardiney is a past-president of the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education and has served on the Board of the Maryland Native Plant Society. He has taught Osher courses on birds, native plants, wildlife, forest ecology and the rites of spring.

### **Songs and Stories of World War II**

**Bill Messenger**

**Wednesday, June 22**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

World War II comes vividly to life when we discover the events that inspired these songs. Seventy years after WWII, the sounds of Glenn Miller’s band and Frank Sinatra’s voice remain nostalgic yet remarkably contemporary. We’ll bring back the era that gave us “Chatanooga Choo Choo” and “Sentimental Journey.”

**Bill Messenger**, a native of Baltimore, studied composition on scholarship at Peabody Conservatory of Music and acquired two Master’s degrees from Johns Hopkins University. Messenger is a music critic and author of over 200 published articles. He has taught at colleges, universities, and synagogues throughout the east coast and helped found the Elderhostel program at Peabody where he taught classes for 25 years.

## LECTURE SERIES

### **Astronomy at the Top of the World**

**Jim O’Leary**

**Tuesday, June 28**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

Astronomy today is performed at remote observatories in exotic locations all around the globe—and even above it! We will explore these lofty locales from the Canary Islands and Arizona’s Kitt Peak to Hawaii’s Mauna Kea and the Andes Mountains of Chile. We will feature images from the rugged beauty of these mountaintops, the magnificent machines used to study the Universe, and the spectacular images they take of planets, stars, and galaxies. We will also view images from the Hubble Space Telescope orbiting Earth and discuss plans for its successor to be launched in 2018.

**Jim O’Leary** is Senior Scientist at the Maryland Science Center and for 12 years co-hosted WYPR’s weekly Skywatch program. He develops Earth and space science programs for MSC’s Davis Planetarium, IMAX Theater and Observatory, and has conducted educator workshops locally and nationally. He frequently lectures on astronomy and Earth science, regularly appears on radio and television as an astronomy expert, and has undertaken many programs with NASA, NOAA, and the National Science Foundation. His visit to the Andes Mountains of Chile last summer was inspiration for this lecture.

### **The Birth, Life, and Not So Grisly Death of the Comic Code Authority**

**Scott West**

**Thursday, July 7**

**10 - 11:30 a.m.**

Comics are for kids, or so they were in 1954 when a Senate subcommittee convened to explore the effects of stories featuring horror, crime, and superheroes on America’s impressionable youth. Explore comic books as they grew from pulp publishing in the 1930s to a flourishing entertainment industry. As competition grew, anxiety about unregulated children’s reading material rose to a fever pitch, resulting in industry led regulation that would shape the medium for more than 50 years. Was this self-censorship? Was it necessary? Learn how the changing perception of comics’ business, audience, and content helped the art form to finally shuffle off the Code.

**Scott West** is Assistant Professor of English and Humanities at Harford Community College where he teaches writing, research, and digital humanities. He has been researching and lecturing on horror and crime comic books for the past five years and has a particular interest in the way the internet provides new opportunities to archive and study twentieth century “trash literature,” such as pulp magazines and comic books.

## LECTURE SERIES

### Napoleon Bonaparte

Charles R. (Bob) Mullauer

Tuesday, July 12

10 - 11:30 a.m.

Some view Napoleon Bonaparte as an enlightened despot. Others see him as one of the great villains of history. Nearly all agree that he ranks with the greatest soldiers of all time. In this presentation, we'll look at how Napoleon rose from the son of poor but noble parents on the island of Corsica to become the ruler of an Empire that encompassed most of Europe. We'll examine the personality and character of Napoleon, the women in his life, and his roles as politician and soldier. We will discuss his ways of warfare and see how this manifested itself in the battles and campaigns that he fought.

**Bob Mullauer** currently teaches history for Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore. He has taught both credit and non-credit military history courses for several community colleges and lifelong learning programs in the Baltimore area. Bob enjoys traveling in Europe and Asia to tour the battlefields of Napoleon, World War I, and World War II. In the U.S., his favorite battlefield walks are those of the Civil War, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812. Bob leads tours of Civil War sites and the 1814 Battle for Baltimore.

### Yoruba Burial Traditions in Nigeria

Chunta Rivers

Thursday, July 14

10 - 11:30 a.m.

In the Yoruba tradition, burial traditions must be followed for the deceased to rest in peace. Chunta Rivers and her Nigerian husband were recently in the Ondo State of Nigeria following the death of his father, Chief Isaac Olasha. A week of ceremonies for this Chief of Ondo State began at the King's house and ended with burial at the deceased's home. In between there were marches and ceremonies to honor and celebrate his life. This lecture will describe this journey through images. See the traditional garments worn at each ceremony and view the daily activities that surround this rite of passage. Learn about the Ondo State and the customs of the Yoruba people in honoring their dead with high respect.

**Chunta Rivers** is the business development manager in the Center for Professional Studies at Towson University. She recently traveled to Nigeria for her father-in-law's burial ceremonies and shares her knowledge of the funereal customs of the Yoruba people in the Ondo State.

## 2016 OSHER SUMMER SERIES REGISTRATION

2016 OSHER SUMMER SERIES

ONE LOW PRICE: \$25

Bring a non-Osher friend with you for \$5/event payable at the door

NO REFUNDS OR CREDITS

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Towson University, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252-0001

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Osher Member through December 31, 2016?  Yes  No<sup>2</sup>

~~For \$25/individual or \$37/couple~~

Individual Prorated Membership ..... \$25

Couple Prorated Membership ..... \$37

Number of Summer Series Registrants @ \$25/person \_\_\_\_\_

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Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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