



Summer Series

May 28–August 13, 2025

**Open to both Osher members
and non-members!**

\$125 includes all 12 lectures

Towson.edu/OsherRegistration

Osher at Towson University—In-Person Lectures

The schedule of in-person lectures will be held in the **College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Building at Towson University**. Parking in the adjacent Towsontown Garage is included. Registrants will receive directions and parking information before the start of the Summer Series. Each lecture will be approximately 90 minutes long, including Q&A.

TOPIC	SPEAKER	DATE	TIME
The Baltimore Arts Community, Creative and Critical Discussions: BMore Art	Cara Ober	Wednesday, May 28	10:00 a.m.
The Sage of Baltimore: H.L. Mencken	Jack Burkert	Wednesday, June 4	10:00 a.m.
Historic Baltimore City Public Schools—An Architectural Perspective	Meg Fairfax Fielding	Wednesday, June 11	10:00 a.m.
Buffalo Soldiers...the Few and the Courageous	Deborah Scott	Wednesday, June 18	10:00 a.m.
The Shifting Terrain of Immigration at the National, State, and Local Level	Beth Clifford	Wednesday, June 25	10:00 a.m.
Gloria Richardson and the Civil Rights Movement in Cambridge, Maryland	Peter Levy	Wednesday, July 2	10:00 a.m.

Osher at Dartmouth College—Livestreaming Online

To round out the summer program, we will be offering a series of lectures produced by the **Osher at Dartmouth College** program. Our participants will receive links to each of the six lectures so that they can participate in the live-streamed presentations. The livestreamed lectures will run from 9–11:30 a.m. with a short break preceding the Q&A.

TOPIC	SPEAKER	DATE	TIME
SESSION 1: The Four Freedoms: History and Relevance to Today	Ronald Edsforth, former Chair of Globalization Studies in MALS, Dartmouth College	Wednesday, July 9	9:00 a.m. ONLINE
SESSION 2: The Broken Promise of America's Asylum System	Rachel Rosenbloom, Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law	Wednesday, July 16	9:00 a.m. ONLINE
SESSION 3: America's Best Idea: The First Amendment and The Freedom of Religion	Randall Balmer, John Phillips Professor of Religion, Dartmouth College	Wednesday, July 23	9:00 a.m. ONLINE
SESSION 4: The Implications of Trump's Economic Policies	Matthew Slaughter, Dean of the Tuck School at Dartmouth College	Wednesday, July 30	9:00 a.m. ONLINE
SESSION 5: The Press and Politics in 2025	Nadine Strossen, John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law Emerita, New York Law School	Wednesday, August 6	9:00 a.m. ONLINE
SESSION 6: The Way Forward	Linda Fowler, Professor of Government and Frank J. Reagan Chair in Policy Studies, Emerita, Dartmouth College	Wednesday, August 13	9:00 a.m. ONLINE



The Baltimore Arts Community, Creative and Critical Discussions: BMore Art

Cara Ober

Wednesday, May 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Baltimore truly is a city of artists. “BmoreArt” plays a critical role in our cultural ecosystem by providing an independent, regional platform for creative communities to share their work and ideas with new audiences. “BmoreArt” is dedicated to highlighting emerging artists, alternative viewpoints, and unconventional forms of expression that may not receive attention in larger mainstream outlets. “BmoreArt” is an independent publication and a leading resource for contemporary art and culture in the Baltimore region. We apply editorial and community building capabilities including digital publication, a biannual print journal, community events, lectures, and social media, to further the cultural and economic interests of artists, arts organizations, cultural institutions, and diverse audiences for arts and culture in the region.

Cara Ober is an artist, arts writer, curator, and the executive director and publisher at “BMoreArt”, Baltimore’s platform for art and culture. Over the last two decades, Ober’s critical reviews, essays, and interviews have explored the political and economic impact of the arts in Baltimore and the way artists thrive in a city full of rich and diverse cultural traditions as well as serious social issues.



The Sage of Baltimore: H.L. Mencken

Jack Burkert

Wednesday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Henry Mencken was a journalist, an author, an arbiter of the American language, an opinion maker, ultimately a literary giant, and always, a native Baltimorean. From his modest beginnings with minimal formal education, sheer determination and natural ability made Mencken a powerful influence on literature and writers of the 20th Century. His Scopes trial reporting took on the sacred cows of the time; his literate magazine work with the Smart Set and American Mercury raised the level of public discourse. In this presentation we look at the high points of his life —his offering of political insights that echo today, and a few low points: his personal elitism, blind spots concerning empathy, and views that seemingly bordered on racial bias. His guiding stars were always less government and more personal liberty, often seeing democracy as dangerous and without hesitation, American entry into the World Wars unacceptable. Blinded by his opposition to Franklin Roosevelt, he offered outspoken negative views of the New Deal, making him out of step with the times and his readership, soon relegating him to political irrelevancy. The person that Henry Mencken is in many ways controversial, yet he was and is a powerful influencer on American literature, and a shaper of the work of many budding writers.

Jack Burkert is a Baltimore native who, in retirement, used his energy and interest in all things Baltimore to create educational programs. Jack lectures at Osher and other area programs. 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.



Historic Baltimore City Public Schools—An Architectural Perspective

Meg Fairfax Fielding

Wednesday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m.

With the realization at the end of the 1900's that education for children was important to the growth and health of Baltimore, the city embarked on a major building campaign. They used the services of some of the best architects of the day to design and construct 26 schools between 1920 and 1930. These schools reflect both the architecture of the time, with Collegiate Gothic structures, and innovation for the region with Italian Renaissance. Come take a journey to see these amazing buildings, and who knows, you might find your alma mater there!

Meg Fairfax Fielding is a 12th generation Baltimorean, who is currently the director of the History of Maryland Medicine at the 225-year-old Maryland State Medical Society, MedChi. She manages MedChi's extensive art and rare books collections, writes, and lectures about the history of medicine in Maryland. She is the curator of the recently opened MedChi Museum of Maryland Medical History. Additionally, Meg has researched and lectured on Baltimore's historic architecture. She currently writes the "Hot House" column for Baltimore Fishbowl.



Buffalo Soldiers...The Few and the Courageous

Deborah Scott

Wednesday, June 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Many are unaware of the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, six all African American Army units serving in the mid-late 19th century. This talk aims to dispel long-held misconceptions about the Buffalo Soldiers. Ms. Scott will delve beneath the surface of typical Buffalo Soldier history to discuss who the Buffalo Soldiers were, why they served, and what service life was like for most in the western territories during Reconstruction. Maryland was the home state for a number of Buffalo Soldiers including Ms. Scott's maternal grandfather, Thomas E. Polk, Sr., who was born free in 1860 on the Eastern Shore and later served ten years with the 9th Cavalry. A labor of love, The Buffalo Soldier Living History Site on the lower Eastern Shore in Wicomico County has a mission to preserve and share the legacy of Mr. Polk as well as the broader Baltimore Soldier history.

Deborah Scott is the director of The Buffalo Soldier Living History Site located on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. She earned a graduate degree in education from Johns Hopkins University. In 2020, she retired from her career as a clinical trials program officer. She resides in northern Maryland.



The Shifting Terrain of Immigration at the National, State, and Local Level

Elizabeth Clifford

Wednesday, June 25 at 10:00 a.m.

At a time of great chaos and considerable malice towards immigrants from some in national office, how do states and localities like Maryland and the Baltimore region respond? In this talk, Elizabeth Clifford will present an update on what is happening with federal immigration policy and enforcement and discuss what our state and local governments are doing in response. This will include a report on this spring's 12th Baltimore Immigration Summit, which is a long-standing collaboration among TU, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and area non-profits that brings together academics, service providers, activists, community leaders and others to keep our region a welcoming place for New Americans.

Elizabeth Clifford, PhD., joined the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Towson University in 2000. Her research interests include immigration, gender, inequality, race and ethnicity, and pedagogy. Her co-authored book, "Immigration and Women: Understanding the American Experience" was published by New York University Press in spring 2011. For twenty years, Beth Clifford has been a lead coordinator of the Baltimore Immigration Summit.



Gloria Richardson and the Civil Rights Movement in Cambridge, Maryland

Peter Levy

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

When freedom riders arrived in Cambridge, Maryland in the early winter of 1962, Gloria Richardson, a forty-year-old single mother, was busy working in her family store and raising her two teenage girls. Concerned about her daughters' growing disillusionment, Richardson accepted an offer to co-chair the newly formed Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee. In less than three years, she helped build one of the most vibrant local movements in the nation, compelled the Kennedy administration to negotiate an unprecedented agreement, was recognized as one of the "Negro Women Fighters for Freedom" at the March on Washington, and established a collaborative project with Malcolm X. This lecture will trace this remarkable person and movement, which to date remains relatively unknown to most Americans.

Peter B. Levy, Professor Emeritus, York College of Pennsylvania, is the author of a dozen books, including The Great Uprising: Race Riots in Urban America during the 1960s and Civil War on Race Street: The Civil Rights Movement in Cambridge, Maryland. Since his retirement from teaching in 2022, he has written several historical dramas including "Mrs. Richardson," about and the Cambridge movement. This play enjoyed a staged reading as part of this year's Baltimore Playwrights Festival, on Saturday, March 15 at the Eubie Blake Jazz Cultural Center in Baltimore.



The Osher at Dartmouth College Summer Lecture Series 2025 is available to Osher at Towson University 2025 Summer Series registrants.

The lectures will meet weekly on Wednesdays, from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Each lecture will be livestreamed and will have a scheduled break before Q & A. Osher at Towson University participants will receive the link to access the livestreamed lectures as well as instructions on submitting questions.

PRESERVING AMERICA’S FOUR FREEDOMS: The Heart of our Democracy

We believe the world and domestic situations today demand that we renew our understanding of the Four Freedoms and the role of our government and political system in ensuring their preservation. The Constitution of the United States contains the political philosophy and a system of checks and balances necessary for the operation of a democratic state to serve all its people. Have we lost the understanding of our individual and collective responsibilities required to make it work? It is time to renew our understanding of what is important to us as individuals and to the future of our country.

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Summer Series

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Registration is a flat rate of \$125 per person for all 12 lectures. This amazing price includes all six in-person lectures, taking place at Towson University, and all six online lectures, livestreamed from the Osher at Dartmouth College Summer Lecture Series.

We hope you'll join us this summer!

Register here, or copy and paste this link:

<https://towson.my.site.com/evt/s/osher-event-detail?eventId=a42UJ000000RkRI&cntry=US>

[Towson.edu/OsherRegistration](https://towson.edu/OsherRegistration)