

OSHER  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
INSTITUTE

# Osher 2017 Summer Series

at 7400 York Road



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

The 2017 Summer Series includes  
movies and a variety of lectures—  
something for everyone!



## MONDAY MOVIES WITH ARNOLD BLUMBERG

### Summer!

It's the time of year for sun-drenched vacations and romantic getaways. In the world of the movies, we've seen summer settings provide the pleasant backdrop for a number of classic films that center on the season. In this series, we'll watch four of them. A princess meets a reporter on a *Roman Holiday* (1953), while Marilyn Monroe gives a middle-aged married man the *Seven Year Itch* (1955). And while *Gidget* (1959) hits the beach, Jimmy Stewart finds that family time can take its toll in the humorous holiday outing, *Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation* (1962). Bring your towel and sunscreen and join us for four weeks of sun, sand, and cinema!

June 5th

*Roman Holiday* [1h 58min]

June 19th

*The Seven Year Itch* [1h 45min]

July 10th

*Gidget* [1h 35min]

July 24th

*Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation* [1h 56min]

Showtime is at 1 p.m. for each movie. There will be time for discussion following each film.

**Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg** is a cinema historian and film reviewer with a B.A. in English with Honors from UMBC, and an M.A. in Publications Design and D.C.D. (Doctorate in Communications Design), both from the University of Baltimore. He is a publisher, author, and world-renowned pop culture scholar, having taught courses at UMBC and UB on the zombie genre, Science Fiction history, superhero media, comic book literature, and the Marvel Cinematic Universe. He spent fifteen years in the comics industry as writer and editor of *The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide*, curated a pop culture museum for five years, and lectures regularly at pop culture conventions.

### ABOUT THE OSHER 2017 SUMMER SERIES:

Once you have signed up for the series, you do not need to pre-register for any of the movies or lectures.

Keep in mind, however, that seating is limited.

## LECTURE SERIES

### Nicholas and Alexandra: A Tragic Love

Vladimir Marinich · Thursday, June 8th 10–11:30 a.m.

The year 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, marking the end of the Romanov dynasty. The last Romanovs were a tragic couple of Shakespearean proportions. Their life was caught up in a time of turmoil, a world war, revolution and civil war. Added to this were the family crises they faced. We will look at the many factors that made the story of the final Romanovs a tragic one.

**Vladimir Marinich**, Professor Emeritus, taught Russian history and culture in the social sciences department at Howard Community College for many years. He grew up in a Russian home and is fluent in Russian. Marinich has been to Russia a number of times. His book, *The Truth of the Russian Revolution: The Memoirs of the Tsar's Last Security Chief* will soon be published by the SUNY Press.

### Frank Sinatra: The Man, The Legend, and The Singer

Bill Messenger · Tuesday, June 13th 10–11:30 a.m.

Frank Sinatra will always be remembered as a great song stylist for his vocal style, his choice of songs, and his fortunate choice of great music arrangers. We'll explore Sinatra's repertoire while also digging into the persistent rumors of his mob connections. We will also see how his three devoted children remembered him as a caring father and family man.

**Bill Messenger**, a native of Baltimore, studied composition on scholarship at the Peabody Conservatory of Music and acquired two Masters Degrees from Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Messenger is a music critic and author of 200 published articles. In 1983, while appearing at Baltimore's Eager House, with his trio, the readers of *Baltimore Magazine* voted Messenger, "Baltimore's Best." The Great Courses ([www.thegreatcourses.com](http://www.thegreatcourses.com)) have recorded two of Messenger's courses for their catalogs: *Broadway Musicals* and *Elements of Jazz*, the second of which has been selected as one of their top ten best sellers. Messenger has taught at synagogues, Jewish cultural programs, colleges, and universities throughout the United States and in Canada. He helped found the Elderhostel program at Peabody where he taught classes for more than 25 years.

## LECTURE SERIES

### **An Overview of the Reformation**

Sherrin Marshall · Thursday, June 15th 10-11:30 a.m.

This presentation provides a broad view of the Protestant Reformation. It includes less known precursors, such as the Lollards, Beghards and Beguines, and gives background on the political and religious situation that brought about the rise of Martin Luther. We will learn how Luther came to be thrust into the role of reluctant reformer. In addition to looking at other leaders, such as John Calvin, Phillip Melancthon, and the Anabaptists and Mennonites, we'll see how the Reformation affected ordinary people — male and female, rich and poor, changing lives and the countries in which these folk lived — and how it continues to impact people worldwide to this day.

**Sherrin Marshall** holds a Ph.D. in the history of early modern Europe, and taught at Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She has written or edited three scholarly books and numerous articles. After completing fellowships at the National Gallery of Art and the Folger Shakespeare Library, Marshall became a senior policy analyst at the US Dept of Education for 8 years. Thereafter she earned a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and served as pastor in the United Methodist Church for 20 years. The era of the Reformation has continued as a scholarly interest throughout her life.

### **The Stonewall Riots and the Beginnings of the LGBT Rights Movement**

James Waller · Tuesday, June 27th 10-11:30a.m.

The Stonewall Riots exploded in New York City over several nights in late June 1969. This lecture explores what is known and what remains unknown about this critical event in LGBT history, which is widely — and perhaps inaccurately — believed to mark the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. The Stonewall Riots and the ensuing gay liberation movement are examined in the context of the late-1960s counterculture and contemporary movements for social justice and are situated against the backdrop of earlier efforts to secure civil rights and social tolerance for sexual minorities. Attention is given to organizations (the Mattachine Society, the Daughters of Bilitis, and San Francisco's Council on Religion and the Homosexual) that helped set the stage for the radical transformation of gay politics sparked by the unprecedented mass resistance to a police raid on a gay bar in NYC's Greenwich Village neighborhood 47 summers ago.

**James Waller** is a freelance writer and editor. He was a reporter for the groundbreaking LGBT newsmagazine *OutWeek* and, later, an early contributor to *Out* magazine. He has written academic articles on LGBT history and culture for journals such as *GLQ*, *Modern Drama*, and *The Union Seminary Quarterly Review*. Mr. Waller is president of the Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation, which supports LGBT-themed performing-arts works based on or inspired by history.

## LECTURE SERIES

### **Rational Dress: Fashion for Politics (and Health) in the 19th Century**

Jim O'Connor · Thursday, June 29th 10–11:30 a.m.

Nineteenth-century feminism focused on suffrage, education, temperance, abolition — and fashion. The dresses we know from *Gone with the Wind* and hand-colored magazine etchings feature gay colors, padded bosoms, tiny waists, ballooning skirts and enormous bustles, but women paid a price for fashion. We'll look at the claims of terrible results from lacing women into corsets from girlhood until old age: damaged internal organs, diminished ability to bear children, muscular weakness, and more. And then we'll consider the dress reform movement: “Turkish trousers” and skirts that fell a few inches below the knee, liberating women from the corset and the burden of carrying yards and yards of fabric. Adopted by feminists as they traveled and spoke, dress reform styles were met with mockery and outrage. We'll tell the fascinating story of this battlefield in the war for women's rights.

**Jim O'Connor** taught fashion history on campus and online at the Parsons School of Design in New York City, and was fashion history coordinator for Parsons' AAS fashion studies program. He holds a Master's degree in art history from Hunter College, and a Bachelor's degree in Human Environment and Design from Michigan State University.

### **Spirituality in Jazz: The Music of Abdullah Ibrahim**

Samuel Fine · Thursday, July 6th 10–11:30 a.m.

Abdullah Ibrahim (b. 1934) is a South African international jazz pianist-composer-bandleader. The elements of his unique musical style are diverse and include South African “mirabi,” swing, bebop, church hymns, ragtime, blues, European folk tunes and the urban sounds of Cape Town. In 1965, Ibrahim became active in the African National Congress and was a key figure in the struggle to end the rule of South Africa's racist government. In 1994, he performed at Nelson Mandela's inauguration. This lecture will be concerned with issues of spirituality with respect to the music and philosophy of Abdullah Ibrahim as reflected in recorded performances, writings and interviews with the suggestion that through his music, Ibrahim intends to create a sacred space for himself and for his listeners that is framed in the meaning of his devotion to both his spiritualism and his African homeland.

**Sam Fine** teaches courses on Western Music History and the History of Jazz in the Music Department at Towson University. He received a Bachelor of Music in Music Literature from Towson University, a Master of Music in Musicology from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, and a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Maryland. Fine serves on the Board of the Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society and on the Executive Committee of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Governing Members. He performs regularly with the band, Mood Swings, as a saxophonist.

## LECTURE SERIES

### **The Supreme Court and Slavery**

Rex Rehfeld · Tuesday, July 11th 10–11:30 a.m.

The presentation will cover the five cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court of the United States, prior to the Civil War regarding slavery, the rights of slaves, and their status in states where slavery had been abolished. We will discuss the circumstances that brought each of the cases to court, the decision of the court, and the dissents, if any, in each case.

We will finish with the last and most well-known case, that of the slave, Dred Scott.

**Rex Rehfeld** holds a B.S. from the University of California at Berkeley and a J.D. from the University of Maryland Law School. He retired from MorganStanleySmithBarney as an investment advisor. Throughout his adult life, his avocation has been the study of history. He has taught several courses for Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Towson University.

### **The Great American Eclipse of 2017**

Jim O'Leary · Monday, July 31st 10:00-11:30 a.m.

August 2017 marks the first time in 38 years one of nature's great spectacles crosses the United States. A total eclipse of the Sun will be visible from the Oregon coast, across the Rocky Mountains, through America's heartland to the Atlantic coast. Day turns to night as the Moon passes directly in front of the Sun, blotting out the Sun's brilliance and exposing the delicate and beautiful solar corona. Stars and planets appear as the sky darkens, animals react in strange ways, and many humans will travel great distances to see this rare occurrence. Discover how and when to safely see the eclipse, both from Maryland and across the U.S., and learn how eclipses were viewed through history and, in some cases, even changed history.

**Jim O'Leary** is Senior Scientist at the Maryland Science Center (MSC) and for 12 years co-hosted WYPR's weekly Skywatch program. He has developed Earth and space science programs for MSC's Davis Planetarium, IMAX Theater, and Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory. He frequently lectures on astronomy and Earth science topics and regularly appears on radio and television as an astronomy expert. Jim has witnessed two total solar eclipses and looks forward to his third this summer.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Preview of Fall 2017 Classes

Thursday, July 20th

Check-in and Coffee at 9:15 a.m. / Program begins at 10 a.m.

Join us at the Central Presbyterian Church located adjacent to 7400 York Road to hear what is in store for the fall semester. Instructors will offer brief presentations of their upcoming courses. Free parking is available. Enter from York Road only at the driveway with the big "7400" sign. Park in either the front or back lot. Please bring your fall catalog. Registrations and memberships will be accepted at the Preview. Guests are welcome and will receive a free catalog.

DATE	TIME	LECTURE/MOVIE
June 5	1 p.m.	Movie: <i>Roman Holiday</i>
June 8	10 a.m.	Lecture: Nicholas and Alexandra
June 13	10 a.m.	Lecture: Sinatra
June 15	10 a.m.	Lecture: An Overview of the Reformation
June 19	1 p.m.	Movie: <i>The Seven Year Itch</i>
June 27	10 a.m.	Lecture: The Stonewall Riots/Beginnings of the LGBT Rights Movement
June 29	10 a.m.	Lecture: Rational Dress: Fashion for Politics (and Health) in the 19th Century
July 6	10 a.m.	Lecture: Spirituality in Jazz: The Music of Abdullah Ibrahim
July 10	1 p.m.	Movie: <i>Gidget</i>
July 11	10 a.m.	Lecture: The Supreme Court and Slavery
July 20	PREVIEW OF FALL 2016 CLASSES	
July 24	1 p.m.	Movie: <i>Mr. Hobbs Takes a Vacation</i>
July 31	10 a.m.	Lecture: The Great American Eclipse of 2017

Osher Lifelong  
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at Towson University

8000 York Road

Towson, MD 21252-0001



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# 2017 OSHER SUMMER SERIES REGISTRATION

## 2017 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

**Please complete the form below and send to:**

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Towson University, 8000 York Road, Towson, MD 21252-0001

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Registrants for Summer Series:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$25/person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for registration payment

*If you are not an Osher Member through December 31, 2017 you must add membership fee to registration payment. We allow prorated membership payment through the end of the calendar year at following rates:*

- Individual Prorated Membership ..... \$25  
 Couple Prorated Membership ..... \$37

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

### Accepted Methods of Payment:

Check payable to **Towson University** or VISA / MasterCard

Visa  Mastercard Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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### For office use:

Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Date Deposited \_\_\_\_\_

