September 12 – Exploring the Arabian Peninsula: An Educator’s Visit to Oman and Qatar
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Kerry Dunne, Grade 6-12 History Department Head, Weston Public Schools
Framingham resident, Kerry Dunne, will discuss how she was able to travel to Qatar and Oman and experience the juxtaposition of a modern, global economy with traditional ways of life in this region of the world. She will show photos of the natural splendor of Oman and the 21st Century skyline of Doha along with short videos of key concepts.

September 26 – Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11
GUEST SPEAKER: Mitchell Zuckoff, Redstone Professor of Narrative Studies, Boston University
Best-selling author Mitchell Zuckoff, who covered 9/11 for The Boston Globe, will describe the inside story of how he wrote the first comprehensive narrative nonfiction account of the worst terrorist attacks in American history. As a member of The Boston Globe Spotlight Team he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

October 3 – Race and Revolution
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Maria Bollettino, Associate Professor, History, Framingham State University
Enslaved people represented 20% of the population of British North America. The American Revolution established a new nation based on the principle that “all men are created equal,” yet slavery remained in place. This talk will explore the role of enslaved and free blacks in the American Revolutionary War and the legacies of the Revolution for race and slavery.

October 17 – The President and the Press: From Teddy Roosevelt to Donald Trump
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. David Smailes, Associate Professor, Political Science, Framingham State University
Presidents have always had a complicated relationship with the press. We will explore that relationship, beginning with Theodore Roosevelt’s skillful use of the press and ending with current debates surrounding the fairness of political coverage and whether truly “objective” political reporting can take place.

November 7 – SGT Pepper At 50: How the Beatles Transformed Pop
GUEST SPEAKER: Tim Riley, Associate Professor, Emerson College, NPR, and New York Times Music Critic
This talk will focus on the intricacies of the iconic 1967 rock album SGT Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band which legitimized the Beatles and rock music itself. How does its message still inform rock mythology?

November 14 – In the Beginning: The Art of Openers in the Novels of Charles Dickens
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Helen Heineman, President Emerita, Framingham State University
Please Note: This lecture will be at the McAuliffe Branch Library.
Creating a good opening scene is an important launching operation on the part of a novelist. Dickens was a master at it, and this talk will look at how he created unforgettable “openers” in several of his 15 novels. We’ll look at his most famous—and best—in Bleak House as well as openers in Dombey and Son, Great Expectations and Edwin Drood.

November 21 – The Good News About Climate Change: Lessons from Germany
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Sabine von Mering, Director of German and European Studies, Brandeis University
Germany is widely credited for having shouldered the start-up cost of the renewable energy revolution. As the fourth largest economy in the world, the country is currently able to power itself 41% from renewables, while having committed to exit nuclear by 2022 and coal by 2038. How did Germany do this? What are the transferable lessons for the US?

December 5 – Legacies of the American Civil War
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. John Ambacher, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, Framingham State University
The Civil War remains the central event in American history with the legacy of the war a source of continuing conflict. How we remember the war greatly influences how we think about race and its history in today’s society. To assist our understanding of the issues of race and equality Dr. Ambacher will portray and incorporate the Civil War experience of his great grandfather, Christian Ambacher, who served with the 98th Pennsylvania Volunteers from 1861 through 1865.