

LIFELONG LEARNING LECTURE SERIES



FALL 2021



This free **Thursday 7pm** lecture series **via Zoom** is a partnership between Framingham State University (FSU) and Framingham Public Library. If you have not registered before, go to bit.ly/FPL-Lifelong-Learning-Lectures to join our mailing list and to receive Zoom links for each lecture.

◆ September 23 – Immigration Then and Now

Guest Speaker: Dr. Patricia Sanchez-Connally, *Associate Professor of Sociology, FSU*

What is the role of race in determining the meaning of citizenship? What are major factors that have shaped the new immigration landscape in the US? This lecture will explore these questions and will cover essential topics that provide a historical context to current debates regarding immigration from Latin America during the 20th century.

◆ September 30 – Alfred Lord Tennyson: Victorian Poet Laureate

Guest Speaker: Dr. Helen Heineman, *President Emerita, FSU*

Alfred Lord Tennyson was Queen Victoria's favorite poet and had a wider readership than any other poet of his time. This lecture will present his life in the context of his age as well as several select poems that illustrate the strangeness, strength, individuality, and timelessness of his extraordinary talent.

◆ October 7 – Great Leaders, Great Legends II

Guest Speaker: Rabbi Rifat Sonsino, *PhD, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Beth Shalom, Needham*

Abraham, David and Jesus are considered towering figures in the ancient world, and lots of legends were attributed to them. This session will attempt to distinguish between fact and fiction.

◆ October 14 – Early Industrial Manchester and Charles Dicken's *Hard Times*: The Real and Imagined City

Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Fideler, *Professor Emeritus of History and Humanities, Lesley University*

Dickens's novel forces us to face the ongoing dilemmas of modernism: the collisions between technological advances, such as steam power, machinery, and factory labor, and the inequality of outcomes, resistance, competing thought systems and faiths, government intervention, and the search for "community" and the essentials needed for human well-being.

◆ October 21 – What Is It About Time and Human Nature in the Time of Covid?

Guest Speaker: Dr. Larry McKenna, *Assistant Professor, Co-Founder of Center for Climate Change Education, FSU*

As Covid ebbs, we wonder which changes we've made to our lives will stand the test of time. One of them is our relationship with time. But what is time? Dr. McKenna will discuss the nature of time, including a brief history of its measurement and how the most precise clocks would lose only a fraction of a second over a 13 billion year lifetime of the universe.

◆ October 28 – A Highway Runs Through It: American Cities and Modernization Before 1956

Guest Speaker: Dr. Amy Finstein, *Assistant Professor of Visual Arts, College of the Holy Cross*

In the early 20th century, the design of highways in downtowns captivated the imaginations of city leaders, architects, and engineers. Learn about the evolution of these landscapes from Dr. Finstein, who will present a lecture stemming from her new book, *Modern Mobility Aloft: Elevated Highways, Architecture, and Urban Change in Pre-Interstate America*.

◆ November 4 – Walk with Me: A Biography of Fannie Lou Hamer

Guest Speaker: Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, *Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Scholar and Author*

Dr. Larson's latest book is about Fannie Lou Hamer, an extraordinary activist whose fight for basic human and political rights changed the course of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. She endured physical violence and economic retaliation when she challenged a racist society that denied her the right to vote.

◆ November 18 – Moving Beyond the Walls That Separate Us

Guest Speaker: Dr. Deborah McMakin, *Associate Professor, FSU, Program Coordinator, Counseling and Psychology*

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program represents a partnership between educational institutions and correctional facilities. Inside-Out enables on-campus FSU students and students who are incarcerated to study together for one semester. An Inside-Out instructor and students will speak about the unique pedagogy and group dynamics of the prison classroom.

◆ December 2 – The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Guest Speaker: Dr. Maria Bollettino, *Associate Professor of History, FSU*

The Trans-Atlantic slave trade involved the forced migration of some 12 million people from Africa to the Americas from the 16th-19th century. This talk will explore the Middle Passage and the role that the trade played in shaping the modern world.