

# LIFELONG LEARNING LECTURE SERIES



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**2021**



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This free **Thursday 7:00 pm** lecture series via **Zoom** is a partnership between Framingham State University and Framingham Public Library.

Please email [framinghamlibraryevents@gmail.com](mailto:framinghamlibraryevents@gmail.com) to join our Winter-Spring 2021 mailing list and receive Zoom links to lectures. All requests must be received by 5:00 pm on the day of the lecture.

**NOTE: If you registered for the Fall 2020 series, you do not need to re-register.**

◆ **January 28 – Dickens and His Fictions of Childhood**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Helen Heineman, President Emerita, Framingham State University**

Dickens was the first to give children central roles in his novels, with characters like Oliver Twist, Little Nell, Tiny Tim, Paul Dombey and a host of others. Perhaps his own hard experiences in boyhood, sent to work at twelve in a dismal blacking factory, gave him this subject. This lecture will examine several of his children and will also look at Dickens himself, father of ten children, at once loving, demanding, and distant. Importing the child into a central place in the novel, he made a difference in the way our culture thinks about children.

◆ **February 4 – Prospects for the Biden Administration**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Jack Beatty, News Analyst for NPR and WBUR's On Point**

Jack Beatty, longtime senior editor for *The Atlantic Monthly*, and author of several books including *The Rascal King* which was nominated for the National Book Critics Award, and most recently *The Lost History of 1914*, will discuss prospects for the Biden administration.

◆ **February 25 – Racism and American Financial Systems**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Kimberly Atkins, Senior Opinion Writer, Boston Globe and MSNBC Contributor**

This lectures examines how racism in everything from home lending, student loans, access to business capital and investing for retirement is at the foundation of American financial systems.

◆ **March 4 – From Poppies to Waterlilies, Claude Monet at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Erika Schneider, Professor of Art History, Framingham State University**

The MFA will bring together major works in the Boston collection for this exhibition which celebrates the museum's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its outstanding collection of works by Monet. Join Professor Schneider for a discussion of Monet's early realism work, his avant-garde impressionist paintings and later abstracted Giverny pieces alongside the academic painters and his impressionist colleagues.

◆ **March 11 – Charitable Ladies: Women's Benevolent Work and Women's "Sphere" in Nineteenth-Century America**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Sarah Adelman, Associate Professor, History, Framingham State University**

This talk explores how the charitable and reform activities women undertook in nineteenth-century American cities simultaneously were seen as marks of the "true woman" and yet also allowed them to push the boundaries of gender norms that designated the home as women's "sphere."

◆ **March 18 – The New Vice Presidency: From Dick Cheney to Kamala Harris**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. David Smailes, Associate Professor, Political Science, and Program Coordinator, Master of Public Administration, Framingham State University**

Many young people are encouraged to grow up to become president of the United States, but how many of us have dreamed of becoming vice president? While the vice presidency has often been dismissed as inconsequential, recent vice presidents have exercised important influence over the administrations they served. This presentation will discuss the changing role of the vice president in American politics, the influence recent vice presidents have enjoyed and the likely role Vice President Harris will play in the Biden administration.

◆ **March 25 – The Victorians and India: From Company Raj to Crown Raj**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Paul Fideler, Professor Emeritus of History and Humanities, Lesley University**

By the early nineteenth century, the English East India Company (1600-) had tamed the lingering Mughal-Indian Empire and was shaping an abusive Anglo-Indian military and commercial regime, the Company Raj. Following the devastating Sepoy Mutiny/Indian Uprisings of 1857 the Victorian British presence in India became an explicitly colonial one. Victoria was named Empress of India in 1876, and the Indian National Congress formed in 1885.

◆ **April 15 – The Middle East of Today: Geopolitical Analysis**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Yaser Najjar, Dean of Graduate Studies, Framingham State University**

The lecture will review and analyze the political events since the year 2011 which became known as the Arab Spring. Special focus will be on the outcomes of these events and the roles of international involvement including the U.S. that have been shaping the new Middle East geopolitical mosaic.

◆ **May 6 – Nazca Lines, Decolonizing Interpretation of Very Large Geoglyphs in Peru**

**GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Yumi Park Huntington, Associate Professor of Art History, Framingham State University**

The Nazca Lines, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1994, are a group of large geoglyphs engraved on the ground between 500 BCE and 500 CE. They were rediscovered in the early twentieth century. Many approaches to understanding these Nazca Lines have been developed from relatively Eurocentric perspectives. Today, art historians seek to decolonize the study of ancient American arts. This lecture provides an overview of the most current research on the Lines and gives an appreciation for Nazca culture, ritual ceremony, and material creations.

*This Lecture Series is sponsored by The Joseph L. and Ray L. Freund Foundation, courtesy of Elizabeth F. Fideler.*

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