

Fall Schedule 2022

Mission

To provide intellectually stimulating, affordable, non-credit learning opportunities to people 50 and over in community settings throughout Vermont



Lamoille Valley OSHER Committee
Adi Barnett - chair
Ann Spearing - Co-Chair
Renee Wahler - Secretary
Barbara Cunningham - Treasurer
Lynn Baumrind, Mary Evslin
Mary West, Scott Weathers

Special Thanks
to
Community Contributors
Stowe Historical Society

9/7/22 Bobbie Falice-Rubio

Exploring the Outer Limits of the Universe

In recent years, Astronomers have learned of the existence of the “gravity waves” caused by massive stellar collisions. This past December, NASA launched the most powerful telescope ever put in space. Our technology has evolved to the point where we are now frequently observing things that were once purely theoretical. Just three years ago, radio astronomers managed to snap an image of a Black Hole for the first time in history. From these gigantic objects to the tiniest of things being smashed in the world’s particle accelerators, our findings in physics are now also testing the limits of our imaginations! In this lesson, we will explore the latest discoveries and if we can come to new understanding of the increasingly strange nature of the Universe.

9/14/22 Paul Baumrind

FBI Healthcare Fraud Overview & Prosecution of Executives at Insys Therapeutics
The presentation will discuss how the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigates healthcare fraud. Additionally, the presentation will include the first in the country prosecution of pharmaceutical executives for their role related to the opioid epidemic.

9/21/22 Rob Mermin

The Parkinson’s Pantomime Project

Founder of Circus Smirkus, trained with legendary mime Marcel Marceau before embarking on a 40 year career in the theater and circus worlds. He will talk about how he adapts basic pantomime and circus techniques to help people with Parkinson’s cope with movement limitations. These techniques include visualization, body language, non-verbal communication, articulation of gesture, and creative use of imagery and space. Rob will discuss his experiences and demonstrate fun methods and tricks he uses in his workshop.

9/28/22 Kathi and Steve Light

Long Walk on the Camino de Santiago

In the summer of 2018 Kathy and Steven Light (of the Fyre and Lightning Consort) walked the entire Camino Frances de Santiago, over 500 miles. Starting in France, over the Pyrenees, through the Basque country and on to Finisterre on the Atlantic coast. During 40 days of walking they met fellow “pilgrims” and many locals. Their presentation touches on their personal experiences, the various modern interpretations of being a pilgrim and the medieval history of the Camino. They will accompany their talk by performing medieval and traditional music from northern Spain on voices, Galician bagpipes, harp, lute, guitar, recorders, whistle and clarinet.

10/12/22 Scott A. McLaughlin

World of the Lake Champlain Canal Boat Community

The life of northern canalers was one of a curious blend of domestic and nomadic existence. Unlike the typical mariner, northern canalers consisted of individuals ranging in age from infants to grandparents, all of whom made their home as well as their living on the inland waterways spanning from New York City to Quebec City. Come learn about who these people were, what they transported, and how they established a unique community in the Champlain Valley between 1819 and 1940.

10/19/22 P. Howard Flanders

Mt. Mansfield Electric Railroad: Waterbury to Stowe

This is a presentation on the electric railroad from Waterbury to Stowe constructed in 1897 and operated until 1932. The program tells the story of construction and operation of the railroad with a collection of old photos and newspaper articles. This was the last operating electric railroad totally within Vermont. Much of the railroad right of way was used in the construction of the concrete Route 100 highway from Waterbury to Stowe in 1932.

10/26 Pablo Bose

New Models for Immigration in VT and the US

In this presentation, learn about efforts to revitalize the US refugee resettlement program after years of cuts, focussed primarily on newer destinations in Vermont like Brattleboro, Montpelier and Bennington. Find out in particular about partnerships between federal agencies, local communities and private philanthropic organizations to spearhead a community sponsorship model, focusing on how to evaluate expectations and outcomes for refugees, resettlement agencies, and local volunteers. The focus will be on both existing refugee populations and the newest arrivals, including Afghans.

11/2/22 Cynthia Bittinger

Out of the Shadows of History

This is a new talk on my book, Vermont Women, Native Americans & African Americans: Out of the Shadows of History. We will revisit the subjects of my book which described overlooked Vermonters who were activists and inspirational heroes. We will update this history while looking around the state at Black Lives Matter signs and learning of tax exemptions for tribal lands and a new constitutional amendment that protects "personal reproductive liberty."

11/9/22 Mark Breen

Star of Bethlehem

During the Christmas holiday season, we see images and figurines, and hear songs about three wise men following a star to Bethlehem. Did this really happen? Countless astronomers, philosophers, and theologians have examined the account in the Gospel of Matthew, other historical accounts of the time, and combined this with our knowledge of astronomy. Retrace these investigations, offering a fascinating exploration of history and astronomy. Was the Star of Bethlehem real? Let’s find out!