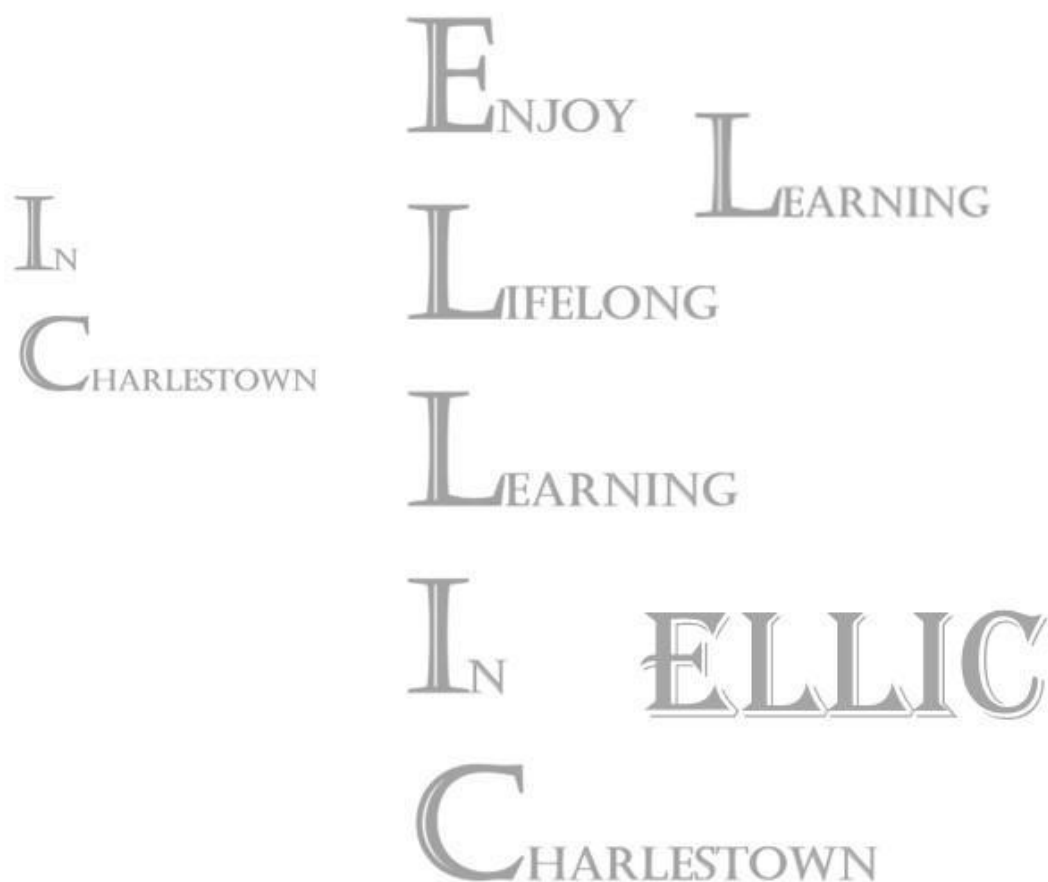




Course Catalog – Fall 2026

Version 2



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We are pleased to release our **Fall 2026 ELLIC Catalog**. Our program retains some popular courses and adds ample new material. As you will see, our offerings consist of a wide range of academic presentations and entertainment.

- **This catalog covers courses offered from September 2026 through January 2027. It is available beginning September 2, 2026**, without the registration form, at all lobby desks.
- **Registration forms** will be available at lobby desks and online at MyErickson and ccicharlestown.org starting **September 9, 2026**.
- **Registration forms will be processed beginning September 9, 2026.**
- The **membership fee for the semester is \$15.00** and admits you to as many courses as you choose. There are no additional fees except perhaps participant materials for some courses. Your fee not only pays the professional presenters but also the purchase of instructional materials for resident presenters. Resident presenters are unpaid volunteers.
- Courses are for members only. If a course is in the auditorium or conference center, **non-members may attend but must pay \$5 at the door.**
- We have limited seating for every course, therefore, you may not be accepted into one when registering. However, your name remains on a waitlist to be called if openings occur. Be considerate and notify the registrar if you cannot attend.
- Refunds for some supplemental participant materials cannot be made unless the registrar is notified at least **five days prior** to the activity.

We are indebted to the many volunteers who share their knowledge, interests, and skills as instructors.

Sincerely,

Gif Intlekofer

Moderator of The ELLIC Steering Committee

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How to Register for Courses

Courses

- **Courses are listed chronologically by start date.**
- Address **any general ELLIC questions to the ELLIC Moderator** (see the last page of this catalog).
- For **questions about a specific course, contact the ELLIC facilitator** named on the course writeup.

Registration and Fees

- The membership fee for the semester grants access to an unlimited number of courses in this catalog. Some courses require an additional fee.
- Registration forms will be available at lobby desks and online at MyErickson and cccharlestown.org, and processed beginning the first day of registration. It must include your email address.
- You may submit a new or additional registration form at any time during the semester and place it in your lobby's black ELLIC Mailbox. Write "2nd (or 3rd, etc.) Form" on it.
- If you have registration questions about your form, contact your registrar. All registrars are listed at the back of this catalog.
- **Email reminders will be sent to you** for the courses that you are enrolled in. If you do not receive a reminder, please bring your returned registration form with you for check-in to the course.

Payment

- **Send a membership fee check for \$15.00 made out to ELLIC along with your first registration form for the semester.** On any additional forms, please write "Fee Previously Paid."
- For ease of accounting and timely return of your fees if courses are full, **please submit a separate check made out to ELLIC for each course that requires an additional fee.** Please write the course name on the memo line.
- Place your completed registration form and payment in the black ELLIC Mailbox in the lobby mailroom of your building. DO NOT STAPLE. Please use an envelope.
- **The Caton Woods and Wilton Overlook lobbies do not have a black ELLIC Mailbox.** You may deposit your form and payment in an ELLIC Mailbox at another lobby that is convenient for you.

Auditorium Event Seating Priority

When a presentation is in the auditorium, these guidelines are used to manage admissions.

- ELLIC members who are registered for the course should come at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time.
- ELLIC members who have not registered for the event will be admitted after those who are registered.
- Non-members who wish to pay the entrance fee of \$5.00 at the door will be seated after ELLIC members if there is room.
- The auditorium can accommodate only 5 EMVs.

Courses by Zoom Video Conferencing

Each semester, some courses might be offered by Zoom video conferencing.

- Zoom is a free app which can be downloaded onto your smartphone, tablet or computer. See below.
- ELLIC must have your email address to contact you with instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting for the course.
- If you do not receive the email notification, contact YOUR registrar who is listed in the back of this catalog.
- Please add hope@hopetillman.com to your personal contact list. Doing this will ensure that you receive your notification.

How to Download Zoom

- Go to <https://Zoom.us/download> and from the Download Center, click on the Download button under “Zoom Client for Meetings.”
Pick the Download button that matches the device you are using.
- This will automatically download when you start your first Zoom meeting.
- Once the download is complete, proceed with installing the Zoom application onto your device or computer by following the instructions it gives.

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No.	Date	Day	Time	Place	Title	Page
F01	9/17/26	Thu	2-3:30	Aud	Presidents and First Ladies: John and Abigail Adams	9
F02	9/21/26, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9	Mon	10-11:30	BR2	Capturing Memories: Writers' Workshop (8 sessions)	10
F03	9/21/26, 9/28, 10/5	Mon	10-11:30	Cross Creek Craft Room	Craft with Lisa: Architectural Cardboard Relief Art (3 sessions)	11
F04	9/22/26	Tue	1-2:30	Aud	Martha Washington - A Revolutionary Woman	12
F05	9/23/26	Wed	10-11:30	Aud	How the Baltimore Oriole Led Us Astray: The Importance of Female Song and Color in Tropical Songbirds	13
F06	9/30/26, 10/7, 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9	Wed	10-11:00 (A) 11-Noon (B)	Music Room	Recorder Classes at Charlestown (9 sessions) • Beginners (A) • Amateurs (B)	14
F07	9/29/26	Tue	1-2:30	Aud	Friendship First: Navigating Memory Loss Together	15
F08	10/1/26	Thur	1-2:30	Aud	The American Revolution and the Black Experience	16
F09	10/2/26	Fri	10:30-Noon	Aud	The Intent of the Constitution Makers in 1787	17
F10	10/5/26	Mon	1-2:30	Aud	Understanding How Your Brain Works and How to Improve Its Function	18
F11	10/7/26, 10/14/26	Wed	10-11:30	Aud	Living LGBTQIA+: • DEI and LGBTQIA+: The Social and Political Life of Differences • Intergenerational Conversations on Gender and Sexuality (2 sessions)	19

F12	10/12/26	Mon	2-3:30	Aud	Constitutional Revolution: American Style	20
F13	10/13/26	Tue	1-2:30	Aud	Wildfire Management: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly	21
F14	10/14/26	Wed	3-4:30	BR1	Charlestown 101: Treasures of Our Websites - CCICharlestown.org and MyErickson	22
F15	10/19/26, 10/26, 11/2	Mon	10:30-Noon	Aud	World Religions Looking Eastward (3 sessions)	23
F16	10/20/26	Tue	10:30-Noon	Aud	The Iron Core of Journalism and Democracy	24
F17	10/27/26	Tue	1-2:30	Aud	Three Mile Island: Past, Present, and Future	25
F18	10/29/26	Thu	10-11:30	Aud	Immigration Realities in Maryland and Why They Matter to All of Us	26
F19	10/30/26	Fri	1-2:30	Aud	Vultures Get No Respect	27
F20	11/4/26	Wed	10-11:30	Aud	The Fascinating Life of Honeybees	28
F21	11/5/26	Thu	10-11:30	Aud	Examining U.S. Middle East Policy	29
F22	11/5/26	Thu	1-2:30	Zoom	The Moon in History, Art, and Culture	30
F23	11/6/26	Fri	10-11:30	Aud	Meet Dr. Tom Scalea: A Pioneer in Maryland Shock Trauma	31
F24	11/9/26	Mon	10-Noon (A) 2-4:00 (B)	Cross Creek Craft Room	Holiday Craft Workshop (2 sessions)	32
F25	11/11/26	Wed	1-2:30	Aud	The 1862 U.S.-Dakota War Through Sarah Wakefield's Eyes	33
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F27	11/18/26	Wed	1-2:30	Aud	A Walk on the Wild Side: Kenyan Wildlife and A Changing Environment	35
F28	11/18/26	Wed	7-8:30	Aud	Meet Bradley Chambers: A Leader in Maryland Health Care	36

F29	11/20/26	Fri	10-11:30	Music Room	The Shroud of Turin	37
F30	12/1/26	Tue	10-11:30	Aud	A Room in Bombay and the Lives It Shaped	38
F31	12/4/26	Fri	10:30-Noon	Aud	Adventures in Low Vision	39
F32	12/7/26	Mon	2-3:30	Aud	Fujara and Freedom	40
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F34	12/9/26	Wed	1-2:30	Aud	Track Tales	42
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F36	12/16/26	Wed	7-8:30	Aud	Classical Guitar: The French Perspective	44
F37	12/17/26	Thu	7-8:30	Aud	The Great American Songbook Composer-Lyricists: Frank Loesser, Johnny Mercer and Billy Strayhorn	45
F38	12/29/26	Tue	1-2:30	Chapel	The Chapel, Our Pride and Joy	46
F39	1/7/27	Thu	1-2:30	Aud	Thinking INSIDE the Box: Research and Confessions of a Chocoholic	47
F40	1/11/27, 1/18/27	Mon	10-11:30	Cross Creek Craft Room	Craft with Lisa: Valentine's Day Card (2 sessions)	48
F41	1/11/27	Mon	1-2:30	Aud	Making Modern Medical Miracles	49
F42	1/12/27	Tue	1-2:30	Aud	A Short History of the Intelligence Community	50
F43	1/13/27	Wed	1-2:30	Aud	Mentalism: Why the Mind Loves Being Fooled	51
F44	1/25/27	Mon	10:30-Noon	Aud	The American Revolution and the Fate of the World: An Electrifying Global History of a Not-So-Local War	52
F45	1/26/27	Tue	1-2:30	Aud	Charlestown 101: Wise Eating with MyNutrition	53

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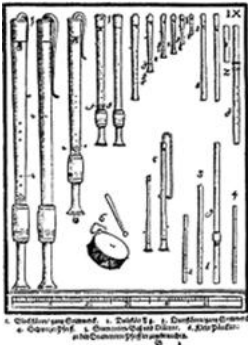
F01	Presidents and First Ladies, Dramatically Speaking: John and Abigail Adams				
Presenter:	William and Sue Wills		Facilitator:	Paul Rao	
			During this 250th birthday celebration year of the United States, actors William and Sue Wills are especially proud that their unique “Presidents and Their First Ladies, dramatically speaking” is the only theatrical creation offering dramatic portrayals of 36 First Couples covering over 250 years of American history. In this appearance, the Wills present the story of our second President and First Lady, John and Abigail Adams. Few realize the great sacrifices they made as husband and wife, and father and mother, to help give birth to this nation. Although Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was a speech by John Adams on July 2, 1776, which secured the votes needed for passage. Jefferson himself said, “he was the pillar of its support on the floor of the Congress, its ablest defender”! In their 49 years, the Wills have performed in 36 of our 50 states and have given over 30 performances at seven of the nation’s Presidential Museums. They work closely together with William researching and creating the scripts while Sue edits his work and creates the costumes, many of her own design		
Date:	September 17, 2026		Time:	2:00 - 3:30 pm	
Day:	Thursday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F02	Capturing Memories: Writers' Workshop				
Presenter:	Elizabeth Fanto		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
 We don't reach this age without stories to tell. In a paragraph or a few pages, capture some of these memories to share with others in this course for friendly, supportive feedback. You are not required to have a piece every week. Writing is “frozen thought” and is a good way to save these memories. Elizabeth Fanto taught English and Creative Writing in Baltimore County public schools for 25 years. After retirement, she continued to teach writing at the Renaissance Institute, the lifelong learning program at Notre Dame of Maryland University, for another 23 years. A native of West Virginia, she comes from a family of educators.					
Date:	September 21, 28 October 5, 12, 19, 26 November 2, 9		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Mondays		Session(s):	8	Seats: 20
Location:	BR2		Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only	

F03	Craft with Lisa: Architectural Cardboard Relief Art				
Presenter:	Lisa Black		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
 Do you have a favorite building or architectural work? Use recycled cardboard to create an image of that special place. Or create an architectural design from your imagination. Layered, cut, and folded cardboard can be used on a flat base to build striking 3D pictures. The technique can emphasize geometry, scale, and negative space, playing heavily with light and shadow. The work can range from simple to complex – that is indeed Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater – as shown here. The course fee will provide each participant with a mat/box knife, metal ruler, self-healing mat to protect tables and allow safe cutting, and strong liquid glue. The instructor will supply the cardboard and all other tools. Skill Level: Medium Lisa Black was an educator in the Baltimore County Public School system for 35 years, most of that time at Hillcrest Elementary School, teaching general education to 3rd grade and art to K-5. Since retiring, she has joined ELLIC as a volunteer arts and crafts instructor. She enjoys sharing her skills and experience from many years of creating and teaching art. Lisa lives in Catonsville.					
Date:	September 21, 28 October 5		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Mondays		Session(s):	3	Seats: 12
Location:	Cross Creek Craft Room		Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only Materials fee \$16	

F04	Martha Washington - A Revolutionary Woman				
Presenter:	Mary Ann Jung	Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno		
		Martha Washington was so much more than the kindly grandmother image most people have of her. She was a smart, courageous woman who risked her life to support her beloved husband George Washington and his troops during the Revolutionary War. She was an indispensable part of the forming of our nation and set the standards of what a First Lady should be. Learn about Martha's sacrifices and strategies as she forged a new path in a brand new country. It's a delightful interactive adventure in Colonial America.			
Mary Ann Jung of History Alive! Shows is an award-winning actress and Smithsonian Scholar who performs delightful and inspiring shows about amazing women in history. She has appeared on CNN and Good Morning America and performed for the National Archives and Smithsonian Museums. She has been a lead actress and Royal Court Director at the MD Renaissance Festival for over 40 years. Her website: www.HistoryAliveShows.com					
Date:	September 22, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F05		How the Baltimore Oriole Led Us Astray: The Importance of Female Song and Color in Tropical Songbirds			
Presenter:		Kevin Omland		Facilitator: Art Johnson	
		When one hears an oriole singing on a spring day on the Charlestown campus, one might be tempted to think about a male trying to attract a female. But the bird singing might actually be a female. Indeed, female orioles sing, and research by an Omland Lab student revealed that over 70% of songbird species around the world have female song. Female song is an understudied and underappreciated aspect of bird behavior, likely in part because most bird song studies have been conducted in Europe and the U.S. In addition, Dr. Omland and his students have shown that women are significantly more likely than men to study female song. Their research has helped lead to a new paradigm to explain how bird song originally evolved. Dr. Kevin Omland is a Professor in the UMBC Department of Biological Sciences. He was named the 2016 UMBC Presidential Research Professor. His diverse work includes research on the evolution and behavior of songbirds, especially orioles and their relatives. He and his students have led work demonstrating that female bird song is much more common and ancient than previously assumed. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles, and he recently completed his first book titled "Understanding the Tree of Life," which was published by Cambridge University Press in the fall of 2025.			
Date:		September 23, 2026		Time: 10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:		Wednesday		Session(s): 1 Seats: 200	
Location:		Auditorium		Additional Fee: Non-members \$5.00	

F06	Recorder Classes at Charlestown				
Presenter:	Peggy Carey Margaret Vincent		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
 Section A: Recorder for Complete Beginners Challenge your brain and your hand-eye coordination by learning to play a new musical instrument -- the recorder! Each of the classes will have time for both instruction and group practice of simple tunes. Soprano or tenor recorders and instruction books will be provided on loan. Keyed instruments can be supplied for those with limited manual dexterity and/or sense of touch. This class will move slowly and be stress-free. Students who have never played a musical instrument or who cannot read music are welcome. Students will be encouraged to practice 5-10 minutes daily between classes. Peggy Carey retired a few years ago from a long career teaching science in both public and parochial high schools. She had played the trumpet at one time and, in her new-found time, now plays with the Recorder music group.  Section B: Recorders for Amateur Musicians This class is designed for people who have completed any of the ELLIC beginner classes in 2023 or 2024 as well as those who have a background in singing or playing any wind or keyboard instrument. Ability to sight-read music is required. Each of the classes will have time for both instruction and group practice. Students will learn fingering for a full octave, then quickly proceed to playing pieces chosen from the Charlestown Recorder Pops' holiday repertoire. Those who are able and interested can participate in the Holiday Sing-along Concert in December. SATB recorders are available on loan, or you can bring your own. All instruction materials will be provided. Students will be encouraged to practice 10-15 minutes daily between classes. Margaret Vincent is a retired theatrical costumer, museum curator, and special education teacher. She has played and studied the recorder since she was 8 years old. As a resident of Charlestown, she transcribes and plays popular music with the Recorder Group and classical music with the newly formed Charlestown Consort.					
Date:	September 30 October 7, 14, 28 November 4, 11, 25 December 2, 9		Time:	Section A: 10:00 -11:00 Section B: 11:00 - Noon	
Day:	Wednesdays		Session(s):	9	Seats: 5
Location:	Music Room		Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only	

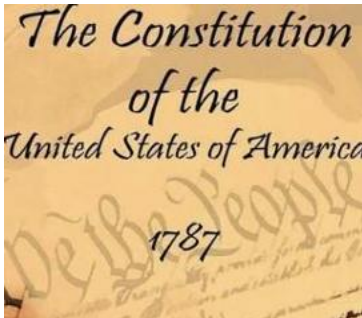
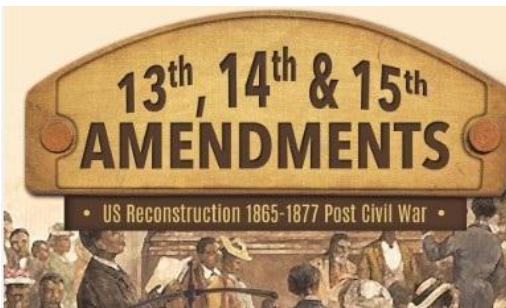
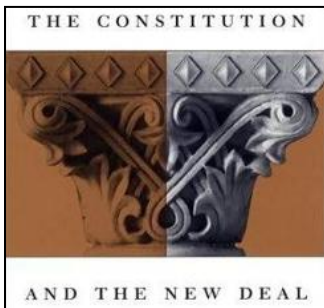
F07	Friendship First: Navigating Memory Loss Together				
Presenter:	Lindsey Vajpeyi		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
 What can any of us do if a neighbor, friend or loved one is experiencing memory loss? A method developed for professional caregivers – the Best Friends™ approach – introduces a relationship-centered philosophy grounded in the belief that what people with dementia need most of all is a friend – a best friend. You will learn how the essential elements of friendship – respect, empathy, support, trust, and humor – can guide your daily interactions. Attitude and approach matter a great deal, and whether you are noticing changes in a close neighbor or preparing for the future, it isn't too early to start learning how to build a supportive, trust-filled environment right here in your community. Lindsey Vajpeyi is the Director of Education & Support at Insight Memory Care Center in Northern Virginia. She brings over two decades of experience supporting older adults living with dementia and the care partners who walk beside them. Lindsey's certifications include Activity Director Certified, Best Friends™ – Certified Master Trainer, Certified Dementia Practitioner®, Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer®, MoCA Cognitive Assessment Certified Rater, Dementia Capable Care Specialist, Dementia Capable Care Certified Instructor, and she is a Dementia Friends Champion.					
Date:	September 29, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F08	The American Revolution and the Black Experience				
Presenter:	Bradley Alston		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
			In 2026, Americans are celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the continuing American Revolution. Several countries have modeled their own founding documents on the Declaration and its proclaimed doctrines. Often missing or overlooked from the birth and early developmental narratives of America are the contributions of the free and enslaved African Americans who were at the Boston Massacre, Valley Forge, Bunker Hill, Washington's crossing of the Delaware, and Yorktown. The subject of the status of Blacks in early America was the most divisive topic at the debates of the Declaration of Independence as they grappled with the contradiction of slavery in a society based on liberty and freedom.		
Baltimore historian Bradley Alston will provide a well-researched presentation on the topic, including a surprising look at Maryland during this important and eventful period in American history. Bradley Alston is a consultant with the Baltimore National Heritage Area, a board member of the Baltimore City Historical Society, and an award-winning Baltimore History Tour Guide leading over 180 tours on Baltimore and Maryland History. He is also an in-demand public speaker. His research has been featured in the Baltimore City Historical Society's <i>Gaslight</i> publication. His article, "Commemorating the 160th Anniversary of the Maryland United States Colored Troops, 1863-1866," was recently published in the <i>Maryland Historical Magazine</i>.					
Date:	October 1, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Thursday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F09	The Intent of the Constitution Makers in 1787				
Presenter:	Elaine Breslaw		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			In creating a new government in 1787 the “Founders” had a variety of intentions and were very vocal about them. They argued over and debated many issues. This presentation will discuss some of those debates and how they were reconciled and codified in the Constitution. There will be no attempt to deal with current Supreme Court considerations of the document. That is another subject. The focus will be what the Founders intended to do in 1787, not what happened afterward except in cases where amendments were added to change the original, such as voting rights and slavery. This will include the idea of a tri-part government and the balance of power, the source of authority for the government, their greatest fears, the method of choosing federal officials, and what was deliberately left out of the document and why. At the end, you can consider on your own to what extent their fears, hopes, and intentions are of relevance today. But, first, you have to know their intentions Elaine Breslaw has taught American history for decades: Professor at Morgan State for 29 years, part-time at Johns Hopkins and, after retirement from Morgan, at the University of Tennessee, always specializing in the early period -- colonial, revolutionary, the New Republic. Elaine has a MA in History, a Master of Library Science, and a PhD in History. She has published five books on various aspects of early American history.		
Date:	October 2, 2026		Time:	10:30 - Noon	
Day:	Friday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F10	Understanding How Your Brain Works and How to Improve its Function				
Presenter:	Joe Gagliardi		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
 The brain is crucial in guiding our thoughts, emotions, and actions. As the core organ of the central nervous system, it governs essential functions, from decision-making to emotional regulation and movement. Understanding how the brain functions enables us to make informed choices that support cognitive health and optimal brain performance. This presentation will take you on an easy-to-follow tour of the human brain, explaining its major regions and functions and practical ways for maintaining and improving your brain's health and functions.					
Dr. Gagliardi earned a BA from the University of Notre Dame, and he served as a Naval Officer in Vietnam. He was assigned to the development team of the Navy's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention program. He received his medical degree from SUNY Buffalo and completed a Family Practice residency at the University of Maryland Hospital. He is board-certified in Family Medicine and Addiction Medicine. Dr. Gagliardi practiced with the Patuxent Medication group for 20 years. He has held various leadership roles as Associate Medical Director and Medication Director at addiction treatment programs in Maryland. For 30 years he was adjunct assistant professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Gagliardi has lectured extensively on addiction issues and 18th-century medicine. In 2008, he founded a free medical clinic serving the homeless and indignant populations in Howard County.					
Date:	October 5, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F11	Living LGBTQIA+				
Presenter:	Kate Drabinski	Facilitator:	Donna Martin		
		Session 1: DEI and LGBTQIA+: The Social and Political Life of Differences Diversity, equity, and inclusion have, in some circles, become controversial terms, suggesting unfair advantages for minorities. How did that happen, and how does that shift affect queer people in particular? October 7, 2026			
		Session 2: Intergenerational Conversations on Gender and Sexuality Join Dr. Kate Drabinski and students from UMBC for a discussion on how we all experience DEI and LGBTQIA+ issues in our daily lives. October 14, 2026			
Professor Kate Drabinski teaches women's, gender, and sexuality studies at UMBC where she also directs the Humanities Scholars Program. She lives with her wife and two gorgeous and perfect kitties, Mr. Guy and Jazzy Jeff. In her spare time, she leads walking tours in Baltimore City and rides her bike for fun and transportation.					
Date:	October 7 and 14		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Wednesdays		Session(s):	2	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F12	Constitutional Revolution: American Style				
Presenter:	Mark Graber		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
   Americans in 2026 are experiencing a constitutional revolution similar in some ways to constitutional revolutions in 1789, 1866, and 1932, but different in other ways. As was the case with the framing of the Constitution, the post-Civil War amendments and the New Deal, the Trump administration is trying to change fundamental, inherited principles of American constitutionalism, concentrating power in the presidency, abandoning longstanding commitments to equality, and promoting a Christian commonwealth. Unlike past constitutional revolutions, the Trump insurgency has little popular support, but rather depends on the ways in which certain constitutional institutions can make small victories that enable the winners to exercise substantial power. Mark A. Graber is the Regents Professor in the University of Maryland System, a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and a resident curmudgeon at the University of Maryland Carey Law School. He is the author of 15 books and almost 200 articles on constitutional law, constitutional theory, constitutional politics, constitutional development, and pretty much every other subject in which constitutional is used as an adjective.					
Date:	October 12, 2026		Time:	2:00 - 3:30 pm	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F13	Wildfire Management: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly				
Presenter:	Jim Himel		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
			This presentation will explore the natural character of wildfires in North America and historic beneficial uses of prescribed burning (The Good). The historic records of destructive wildfire in the U.S. that led to the establishments of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the overly successful Smokey Bear fire prevention program will be visited in story, legend, and song (The Bad). And examples of some of the most lethal wildfires in U.S. history will be reviewed using actual USFS After Action Reports (The Ugly). Following this discussion, the topic will shift to a concern much closer to home – the recent destruction of the Spring Grove Arboretum in Catonsville and the ensuing environmental damage to stream valley and wetlands along Herberts Run. A UMBC capital improvement project on its Spring Grove Hospital campus led to clear-cutting nearly three acres of trees – over 1,000 trees – and the bulldozing of the area around Herberts Run. Jim Himel, a forester, grew up in a second-generation Howard County tree farm family. He holds a Master's Certificate in Natural Resource Management. His 45-year professional career includes public service as an urban planner and environmental policy expert. For over 14 years, Jim has managed the community of volunteers in the Catonsville Tree Canopy Project that has planted and maintained 1,400 street trees in Catonsville. Currently, Jim is facilitating two NGO projects: the Spring Grove Arboretum and the Patapsco River Heritage Trail.		
Date:	October 13, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F14	Charlestown 101: Treasures of Our Websites – CCCharlestown.org and MyErickson				
Presenter:	Walt Howe and Hope Tillman		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			Do you need to know the latest, most accurate information about our home, Charlestown? This session will provide an overview of what is available on cccharlestown.org and MyErickson. cccharlestown.org has been around since 2009 on the open web. It was developed and is managed by residents for residents to help us stay as up to date as possible on what is happening in our community. MyErickson is a staff-driven product with some of its information, such as meal balance, customized to each of us. Residents Walt Howe and Hope Tillman are co-webmasters of the Charlestown residents' website cccharlestown.org with Sara Nixon. They also lead the Charlestown Computer Users Group (CHUG) with Ann MacKay and are involved in many other activities. Hope is also co-chair of the Communications Committee on The Residents' Council.		
Date:	October 14, 2026		Time:	3:00 - 4:30 pm	
Day:	Wednesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 35
Location:	BR1		Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only	

F15	World Religions Looking Eastward				
Presenter:	Don Burgard		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
			Religion is made up of many elements. It is story. It is belief and ritual. It is behavior. And it is something that has been misunderstood and misused too much. It is myth. Together, we will unpack some of our misunderstandings and gain new insight into one of the elements that affect millions around the world.		
In previous presentations, we looked at those religions that saw Abraham as their point of origin, sometimes referred to as Western Religions. In this series, we will turn Eastward to look at religions that are very different from those that we are most familiar with. We will encounter religions with many gods and goddesses, and religions that have no deities of any kind but are more of an ethic for living. We will see how reincarnation is understood, learn an expanded definition of yoga, and gain a whole new lexicon: samsara, moksha, karma, dharma and more. This is a 3-part series: Part 1 - Introduction and Hinduism. October 19, 2026 Part 2 - Hinduism and Buddhism. October 26, 2026 Part 3 - Major Religions of China and Japan. November 2, 2026 Don Burgard was a pastor for 46 years, earning his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Between 1996 and 2001, he also taught World Religions in the Adult Education Program of Catonsville Community College. Don and his wife have been residents at Charlestown for seven years. He is active in the Treasures Sale, Ping Pong, Harmonizers (his wife is director), Theological Table Talk (3 T's), Corn Hole, and preaches for the Charlestown United Protestant Church as needed.					
Date:	October 19, 26, November 2		Time:	10:30 - Noon	
Day:	Mondays		Session(s):	3	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F16	The Iron Core of Journalism and Democracy				
Presenter:	Dan Rodricks		Facilitator:	Paul Rao	
			While the news landscape has changed dramatically in the 21st Century, most of the original, professional reporting produced in the U.S. each day still emanates from traditional news sources. Dan Rodricks will discuss how Americans, faced with many choices, need to be disciplined news consumers and support the “iron core” of journalism to keep their democracy. – local and national newspapers, radio and television news operations, the Associated Press and Reuters, several magazines and some nonprofits, such as ProPublica. Three times a week from January 1979 until January 2025, Dan Rodricks wrote a column on a sprawling range of topics for <i>The Baltimore Sun</i>. After 46 consecutive years, it was believed to be the longest-running local column in the U.S. Before resigning from <i>The Sun</i> in January 2025, he had written more than 6,600 columns. In addition to the column, Dan was for many years a local radio and television host, and he was the creator and host of <i>The Sun’s</i> first podcast, <i>Roughly Speaking</i>. He is the author of three books, including <i>Father’s Day Creek: Fly Fishing, Fatherhood</i> and <i>The Last Best Place on Earth</i> (Apprentice House 2019). In recent years, Dan found his way into writing for the stage. His first play, “Baltimore, You Have No Idea,” has had three runs to sell-out audiences at the Baltimore Museum of Art’s Meyerhoff Auditorium. A second play, “Baltimore Docket,” premiered in February 2024, also to sell-out audiences. Both plays are based on Dan’s work as a reporter and columnist for <i>The Sun</i>. His third play, “No Mean City: Baltimore 1966,” recently had its premier run at the BMA in March 2026.		
Date:	October 20, 2026		Time:	10:30 - Noon	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F17	Three Mile Island: Past, Present, and Future				
Presenter:	David Allard		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
			Three Mile Island Units 1 and 2 offer an interesting case study related to nuclear power. This presentation will explore radiation production standards and regulations; the March 1979 Unit-2 accident, response and recovery; the failures in communication at that time; offsite public radiation dose and potential public health impact; post-accident monitoring of the public for radiation exposure and effects; a major class-action legal court case; psychological impact on the community; the restart of Unit-1 in the mid-1980s, and now in 2025. Also, the aspects of: low-level radioactive waste generated during operations of Unit-1; current clean-up and decommissioning of Unit-2; ongoing, radiological environmental surveillance; the concerns related to onsite, spent nuclear fuel storage; long-term transport and disposal; and the future of nuclear power, along with other issues, will be examined. David Allard is a medical-health physicist, experienced in the field of radiation production for over 47 years, and is a recognized national and international expert. After nearly 24 years of exceptional public service, in July 2022, he retired from his position as Pennsylvania DEP's Director of the Bureau of Radiation Protection.		
Date:	October 27, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F18	Immigration Realities in Maryland and Why They Matter to All of Us				
Presenter:	Maureen Sweeney	Facilitator:	Margaret Eng		
 Professor Maureen Sweeney has been representing immigrants and advocating for immigrant rights for over 30 years. She teaches immigration law and directs the Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, where she also ran the Immigration Clinic for 20 years. She will talk about some of what is happening with immigration law and enforcement in our country and state, and how it affects all kinds of immigrants, especially given the severe lack of accessible legal representation. She will discuss how these issues affect us all and the hope she sees in her law students.					
Date:	October 29, 2026	Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am		
Day:	Thursday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

F19	Vultures Get No Respect				
Presenter:	Brian Rollfinke	Facilitator:	Elaine Breslaw		
		Sure, they're Visibly unnerving, Voracious scavengers, with Vexing habits and a largely Volant existence, but the much-maligned Vulture possesses, in fact, many Venerable traits. As tertiary consumers, they also play a Vastly Valuable role in the ecosystem. Consider the state of our roadsides and farmyards, were it not for these Lords of Leftovers, Counts of Carrion, Dukes of Decay, and Rockstars of Roadkill. Smelly? Perhaps. Unsightly? A bit. Repulsive? One could say. But what better time than Halloween Eve to learn more about these mysterious, yet fascinating, avians. As you will discover, Vultures are VITAL, not Vile. Brian Rollfinke is the Director of Education and Outreach for Wild Birds Unlimited in Timonium and Columbia. He holds a BS in Biology from Wake Forest University, and a MS in Ecology, with a focus on forest songbirds, from Penn State.			
Date:	October 30, 2026	Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm		
Day:	Friday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

F20	The Fascinating Life of Honeybees				
Presenter:	Joan and Tom Cain		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
 Ever wondered what's really happening inside a hive of honeybees? Join beekeepers Joan and Tom Cain for a close-up look at honeybee colonies, brought to life with exclusive photos and videos meant to make you feel like a beekeeper. They guarantee to delight the audience as they explore honeybee biology, the many jobs the bees perform within the colony, and how honey is harvested each summer. Ten-year beekeepers at Morning Choice Apiary in Patapsco State Park, the Cains tend 15 colonies of honeybees, spending much of the year stewarding their bees and harvesting pure, raw, lightly filtered, wildflower honey that always sells out.					
Date:	November 4, 2026		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Wednesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F21	Examining U.S. Middle East Policy				
Presenter:	Charles Blaha		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			Charles Blaha is a respected authority on U.S. human rights policy, especially in the Middle East. He has written and spoken extensively on human rights, international humanitarian law, and U.S. laws and regulations governing security assistance and arms sales. His 32-year State Department career gives him unique insight into the workings of the department, U.S. embassies, and U.S. diplomatic interactions with foreign governments. In this talk, he will provide an analysis of U.S. policy in the Middle East..		
Charles Blaha is a Senior Advisor to Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), an organization dedicated to promoting democracy and human rights in the Arab world. Prior to joining DAWN, Blaha served in the State Department for 32 years in a variety of overseas and domestic assignments.					
Date:	November 5, 2026		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Thursday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F22	Zoom Presentation: The Moon in History, Art, and Culture				
Presenter:	Jim O'Leary	Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno		
		The Moon is the most obvious object in the night sky, passing through its phases in monthly cycles since long before humans appeared on the planet. But since the dawn of humankind, we have observed the Moon and interpreted it in many diverse and fascinating ways, which has provided a rich history of art and culture that looks to define and understand our closest celestial neighbor. In this presentation, we explore the many works of art, poetry, and mythology about the Moon. Jim O'Leary served as the lead space science and astronomy specialist for the Maryland Science Center for several decades. He produced programs for the Science Center's Davis Planetarium and IMAX 3D Theater and developed exhibits on space and Earth science. He also managed the renovation of the Science Center's rooftop Observatory and its 1927-era telescope.			
Date:	November 5, 2026	Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm		
Day:	Thursday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	150
Location:	Zoom presentation	Additional Fee:	Enrolled Members Only		

F23	Meet Dr. Tom Scalea: A Pioneer in Maryland Shock Trauma				
Presenter:	Tom Scalea		Facilitator:	Paul Rao	
 Join resident Paul Rao as he interviews Tom Scalea, Physician in Chief of the Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center. It is one of the first shock trauma centers in the world. Dr. Scalea is globally recognized for establishing critical protocols during the “Golden Hour” and advancing the field of shock and injury care. He was also chosen for the Baltimore Sun's Hall of Fame in 2025 in recognition of his profound contributions to Greater Baltimore and the state of Maryland. In 2027 he will have served in his Shock Trauma role for 30 years. The interview will begin with a 5-minute video celebrating Dr. Scalea’s years at Shock Trauma. A history of the Center will follow, then one-on-one conversation with Paul Rao that includes how he was selected to fill the surgical scrubs of its founder R. Adams Cowley, treating critically injured patients within "the Golden Hour," his leadership and mentorship in the trenches of Maryland’s war against drugs and handguns, and responding to medical emergencies. Paul Rao has been a Charlestown resident for four years and attended St. Charles College from 1960-66. He serves as Chief Election Judge of our precinct, chairs the DEIB Council of Residents, and serves on the ELLIC and Scholarship Committees. Paul also co-chairs the Orioles Nest and Italian American Club. He is also a Board Member of the Baltimore Food Project.					
Date:	November 6, 2026		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Friday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F24	Holiday Craft Workshop				
Presenter:	Mary Evans, Brittany Owens		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			Charlestown's creative duo, Mary Evans and Brittany Owens, are back to teach another holiday craft workshop. Experience the joy of learning basic crafting techniques. Put your artistic, decorative and creative skills to work as you use unusual or found objects to create two holiday crafts. Pictured here are the beautiful pieces created in last year's workshop. Whatever your skill level, expect to learn the fundamentals of creating unique ornaments or gifts. You have the choice of either the morning or afternoon workshop. Please note the details below for registering. Mary Evans manages the Community Resources department at Charlestown. Known for her imaginative, doable craft classes, she is always in popular demand to teach another. Brittany Owens is the Lead Coordinator in Community Resources. A crafting enthusiast, she hunts the Treasure Sales for interesting objects and materials for her projects.		
Date:	November 9, 2026		Time:	10:00 - Noon (A) 2:00 - 4:00 (B)	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 24
Location:	Cross Creek Craft Room		Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only Materials fee \$15.00	

F25	The 1862 U.S.-Dakota War Through Sarah Wakefield's Eyes				
Presenter:	Phyllis Cole-Dai		Facilitator:	Elaine Breslaw	
			Hear captivating stories behind <i>Beneath the Same Stars</i>, a novel that dives into Minnesota's 1862 U.S.-Dakota War from the perspective of Sarah Wakefield. She was a doctor's wife who got caught up in the conflict. You will learn about a largely forgotten war that still haunts the Upper Plains. Phyllis Cole-Dai began pecking away on an old manual typewriter in childhood and never stopped. "Writing across what divides us," she has authored or edited more than a dozen books in multiple genres – fiction, poetry, memoir, and more. Originally from Ohio, she relocated to Charlestown		
			in 2025 after living for a quarter-century in South Dakota. She invites you to subscribe to The Raft, a Saturday newsletter that features her original work. There is more about Phyllis at phylliscoledai.com		
Date:	November 11, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Wednesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F26	The Future of AI and Autonomous Machines				
Presenter:	Ed Appel		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in the news daily. Will it take away millions of jobs? How does it work, anyway? What does it do for the government, business and just plain people? How does AI relate to robots? Is the dystopian future of the movies realistic? – i.e., will intelligent machines decide they don't need people anymore? This presentation is designed to include a layman's primer on what AI is, how it works, and its immediate future as the "brains" in robots. Illustrations will show an entertaining future picture of developments in robotics and autonomous machines that will be part of our future, from the military, manufacturing, and transportation to household chores and companionship.		
The impending introduction of humanoid robots being taught to operate independently with AI is the next stage after the voice in the living room speaker. Ultimately, the robots are meant to operate on their own. We are all asking, what will that mean?					
Edward J. Appel, Sr. (Ed), an active 5-year Charlestown resident, is a retired FBI Special Agent, corporate security executive, government consultant, nonprofit CEO and adjunct professor. He has authored two books on cybervetting and a biography of his father, Charles Appel, who founded the FBI Laboratory. Ed's curiosity has provoked research on these topics stemming from his time in the FBI and corporate security, witnessing the rise of smart devices, huge data farms, biometrics, internet searches, machine learning, security, and cybercrime.					
Date:	November 16, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F27	A Walk on the Wild Side - Kenyan Wildlife and a Changing Environment				
Presenter:	Linda Whelihan	Facilitator:	Sherry Stewart		
		Art educator, Linda Whelihan, was awarded a Fulbright grant and recently spent six months working with the Mara Elephant Project and schools in the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. “The Mara,” as it is locally known, is contiguous with the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Learn about the inspiring work the Mara Elephant Project is doing to promote the peaceful coexistence between the people and animals that share this wondrous ecosystem. Friends from the Maasai community have given her a collection of special artifacts that will help transport you to the savannah for this presentation. Linda Whelihan is an artist and educator who specializes in engaging individuals and building community through shared art experiences. Her background as a teacher, museum educator, and artist informs her practice, and she excels at creating art-full experiences that make lasting impressions.			
Date:	November 18, 2026	Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm		
Day:	Wednesday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

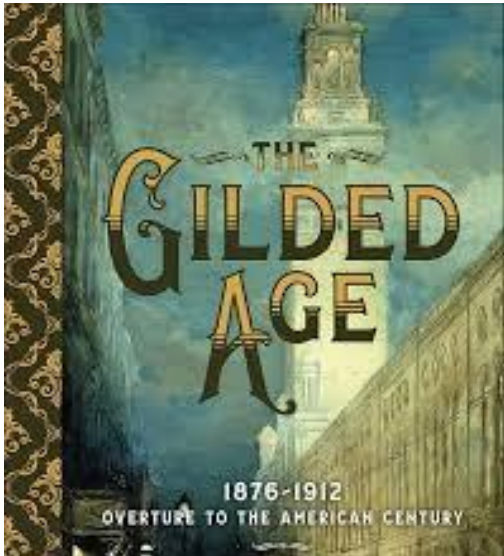
F28	Meet Bradley Chambers: A Leader in Maryland Health Care				
Presenter:	Bradley Chambers		Facilitator:	Paul Rao	
 Learn why Brad Chambers elected to go into health care, and how he rose to lead the Baltimore region of MedStar Health while also serving as the Chair of the Maryland Hospital Association’s Board of Trustees. Hear Brad’s personal story of “persistence to a high degree,” facing the challenges in the healthcare industry where there are precious few role models for an aspiring African American male. Brad has led the Baltimore MedStar Health region in conquering Covid and all of the other myriad challenges facing our community today, including improved access and patient safety, and adding value and quality to the healthcare equation. The secret sauce of Brad’s ascendancy in Baltimore’s healthcare community are his cadre of diverse and dedicated mentors who recognized, early on, Brad’s high emotional intelligence. Discover Brad’s pride in being recognized as a Maryland Black American Hero and steps he is taking to mentor his own class of healthcare heroes. Besides taking refuge with his family at the Delaware beach, learn why he makes time to take a leadership role in the American Heart Walk and Polar Bear Plunge. In 2026, Brad received The 13th Annual Maryland Black History Heroes Award. Paul Rao serves on six Charlestown Committees and Clubs and is the DEIB Resident Council chair. He also serves as Chief Election Judge of the Charlestown precinct.					
Date:	November 18, 2026		Time:	7:00 - 8:30 pm	
Day:	Wednesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F29	The Shroud of Turin				
Presenter:	Carl Roemer	Facilitator:	Paul Rao		
		This presentation will unveil the nature of the Shroud of Turin and the history of the investigations that have been conducted. Carl Roemer will discuss the pros and cons of the Shroud's authenticity, the methods for dating the Shroud, and provide a critique of the results. Also addressed will be the meaning of the image on the Shroud and the passion narratives of Jesus.			
Retired Lutheran Minister Carl E. Roemer, Ph.D., served as a parish pastor and later as a psychiatric chaplain and director of pastoral care at the Greater Binghamton Health Center. During this time, he was also on the faculty of the Judaic Studies at the New York State University at Binghamton. He has presented many lectures in various venues over the years and has three Christocentric publications.					
Date:	November 20, 2026	Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am		
Day:	Friday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	50
Location:	Music Room	Additional Fee:	Enrolled Members Only		

F30	A Room in Bombay and the Lives It Shaped				
Presenter:	Manil Suri	Facilitator:	Art Johnson		
		Manil Suri grew up in a large crumbling apartment in Bombay which his Hindu parents shared with three Muslim families. Their single room was a refuge from the religious and territorial tensions ravaging the apartment. But it was also a prison that held them captive – his parents stuck in a long and loveless marriage, the author unable to explore the dawning realization he might be gay. In this talk, based on his recent memoir, <i>A Room in Bombay</i>, Suri will discuss how he finally broke free of the room and tried also to help his parents escape. In addition to his memoir, Manil Suri is the author of three internationally acclaimed novels – <i>The Death of Vishnu</i>, <i>The Age of Shiva</i>, and <i>The City of Devi</i> – and a book on popular mathematics. His work has been longlisted for the Booker Prize, shortlisted for the PEN/Faulkner, Lambda Literary, and PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Awards, and won the McKittrick Prize and the Barnes & Noble Discover Award, among others. He has served as a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times and is a distinguished university professor of mathematics at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.			
Date:	December 1, 2026	Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am		
Day:	Tuesday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

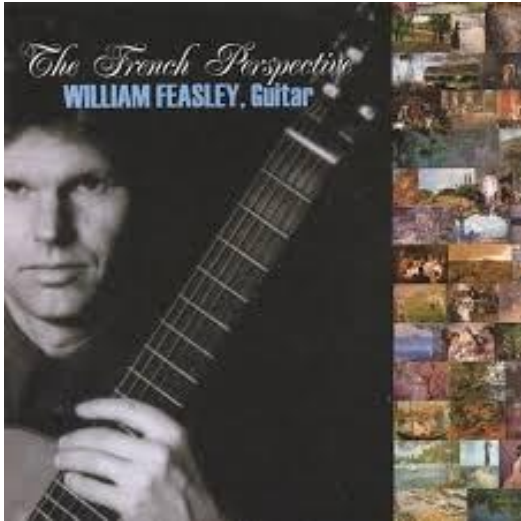
F31	Adventures in Low Vision				
Presenter:	Carol Benner		Facilitator:	Marty White	
 Normal vision  Cataracts  Age-related macular degeneration (early)  Age-related macular degeneration  Diabetic retinopathy  Glaucoma Low vision is a condition that affects between 10 and 15% of all people over 65. It can be caused by a variety of eye diseases. Glasses, surgery, and eye drops cannot cure or correct low vision, and those affected by it are frequently left feeling frustrated, depressed and isolated. Carol Benner was diagnosed with low vision while in her 40s. Over the past 35 years, she has learned to cope with her vision loss and continue to do the things she wants to do. She will share her experiences, including both laughter and tears, and will walk you through what low vision is, how a diagnosis is made, and most importantly how to get help. Carol will have a display of assistive devices that have helped her with simple activities of daily living, like reading, sewing, pushing the right buttons on the microwave and TV remote, driving, etc.					
Carol Benner had a long and successful career in healthcare policy, first at the Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center and later as Director of the Office of Health Care Quality for the Maryland Department of Health. Since moving with her husband and cat to Charlestown in 2025, Carol has participated in the Health Services Committee of the Residents' Council that includes the Low Vision Group. She also plays the recorder. She and her cat Lily regularly visit residents in Wilton Overlook and Caton Woods. She has given lectures on Low Vision to the Lions Club, students at Johns Hopkins Medical School, and several low vision support groups.					
Date:	December 4, 2026		Time:	10:30 - Noon	
Day:	Friday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F32	Fujara and Freedom				
Presenter:	Bob Rychlik	Facilitator:	Sebastian Petix		
		Bob Rychlik is a master of a virtually unknown musical instrument – a flute traditionally played by Slovak shepherds – called the fujara (pronounced “fuyara”). Bob had fled with his family from Communist Czechoslovakia in 1983. Settling in the United States, he rediscovered the music of the fujara that he grew up listening to and taught himself how to play the instrument by listening to cassettes. Bob will share his story of escape to the United States, how rediscovering the fujara played a role in new found freedom, and the deep earthy musical sound of the fujara. Born in former Czechoslovakia, Bohuslav “Bob” Rychlik is an internationally-recognized teacher, composer, and performer of the fujara, koncovka, and other traditional Slovak overtone flutes. He has performed at the Library of Congress and Kennedy Center, as well as at many U.S. folk festivals and Czech and Slovak ethnic festivals throughout the U.S. and abroad. He also continues to teach the fujara and koncovka at Maryland’s Common Ground on the Hill folk arts and music festival each summer at McDaniel College, Westminster.			
Date:	December 7, 2026	Time:	2:00 - 3:30 pm		
Day:	Monday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

F33	Zoom Presentation: America's Gilded Age - The Making of a New Nation				
Presenter:	David Hatch	Facilitator:	Sherry Stewart		
		After the nation was torn in two by the Civil War, the United States healed and changed in a half century of peace. Dr. David Hatch will discuss how change in almost all sectors of national life – government, society, business, and entertainment – prepared the country for the even greater changes of the 20th century. David A. Hatch, PhD, is the senior historian for a federal agency. He earned a BA in East Asian Languages and literature and a PhD in International Relations with a concentration on Asia. He has served as an adjunct professor at schools in the Baltimore-Washington area, teaching a variety of courses relating to Asian and American history.			
Date:	December 7, 2026	Time:	7:00 - 8:30 pm		
Day:	Monday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	100
Location:	Zoom	Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only		

F34	Track Tales				
Presenter:	Mark Buehlman		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			Animals communicate with the landscape in subtle ways, leaving behind a quiet narrative for those who observe closely. Their presence is marked not only by their tracks but also by scat, the habitats they choose, and a variety of other signs. Each of these clues represents a part of a much larger story — one about movement, behavior, and the deep connections animals have with the world around them. By studying these signs, we can assemble a living story that reveals the daily lives and habits of animals.		
“Track Tales” will guide you through this process, and you will see numerous examples of these animal signs and learn the skills necessary to read and interpret the remarkable stories they tell.					
Author, speaker, inventor and teacher, Mark Buehlman has 45 years of diverse environmental experience. He was an Adjunct Professor at CCBC, where he taught Environmental Science and Environmental Law. Prior to this, he was Senior Naturalist at the Rock Environmental Center, a Southwestern New York outdoor education facility.					
Date:	December 9, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Wednesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F35	Baltimore's Streetcars				
Presenter:	Christopher McNally		Facilitator:	Sherry Stewart	
			The first commercially operated electric streetcar in America began operation in Baltimore on August 10, 1885. In an earlier talk, streetcar enthusiast Chris McNally presented a history of the No. 9 streetcar line that ran from Baltimore to Ellicott City. It was enormously enjoyed by many in the audience who shared their personal stories riding the No. 9 at Q&A. Chris now returns to tell a broader history that has the full network of streetcars in Baltimore, with emphasis on the post-war years, 1945 to 1963. To be sure, there will be pictures, videos and more interesting stories Christopher McNally is executive vice president and legal counsel to the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, in addition to working as motorman, conductor, and dispatcher when called upon. By profession, he is a partner in a law firm in Towson, Md. He has also sat on the Board of Directors of Charlestown since 2021 and serves on the board of Trinity School in Ellicott City, Md.		
Date:	December 14, 2026		Time:	10:30 - Noon	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

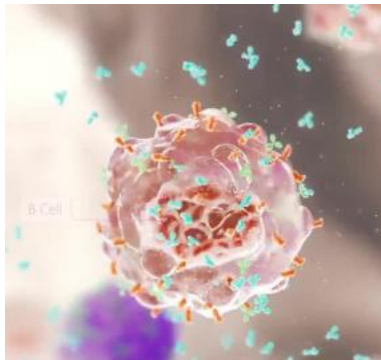
F36	Classical Guitar: The French Perspective				
Presenter:	William Feasley	Facilitator:	Paul Rao		
		Revel in a performance of solo guitar with a decidedly French accent with acclaimed classical guitarist William Feasley. Against visuals of French works of art, the selection features a classical, romantic, and impressionist repertoire adapted for guitar, ranging from baroque works to modern pieces. William Feasley's guitar has been described by The Washington Post as sounding "in the words of Segovia, like a small orchestra in its variety of colors." He was selected to perform for Andres Segovia at the maestro's historic last master class at the University of Southern California in 1986. He was also the first guitarist to be awarded the Peabody Conservatory's coveted Artist Diploma. William has performed throughout the United States and internationally. He is also the founder of the D'Amore Duo that, in its present incarnation, brings together the rich and intoxicating sounds of the viola and guitar.			
Date:	December 16, 2026	Time:	7:00 - 8:30 pm		
Day:	Wednesday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

F37	The Great American Songbook Composer-Lyricists: Frank Loesser, Johnny Mercer and Billy Strayhorn				
Presenter:	Bob Jacobson	Facilitator:	Elaine Breslaw		
 American popular music of the 1920s – 1950s, known as The Great American Songbook, was almost totally written by teams of composers and lyricists. Yet a small number of great talents wrote both music and words. Musician Bob Jacobson presented the lives and music of the two biggest names, Irving Berlin and Cole Porter, in his review a year ago. In this follow-up, he will focus on three other greats: Frank Loesser (Guys and Dolls), Johnny Mercer ("Dream"), and Billy Strayhorn ("Take the A Train"). Bob Jacobson is a semi-professional musician active on the Baltimore-area jazz scene. He has presented programs on composers and lyricists of the Great American Songbook at many senior centers and retirement communities.					
Date:	December 17, 2026		Time:	7:00 - 8:30 pm	
Day:	Thursday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

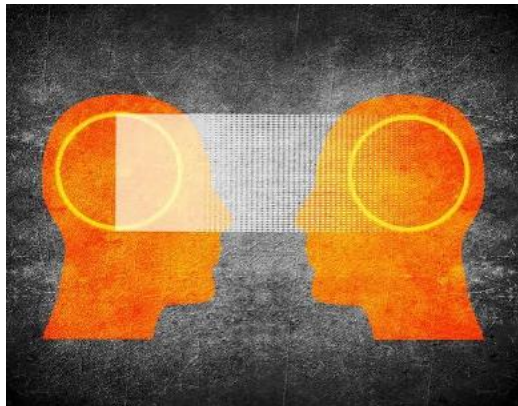
F38	The Chapel, Our Pride and Joy				
Presenter:	Fr. Leo Larivee		Facilitator:	Gif Intlekofer	
 Our Lady of the Angels Chapel is a magnificent example of Italian Renaissance architecture. Adorned with intricate mosaics, Carrara marble, and breathtaking stained-glass windows, the chapel is a veritable trove of Christian artwork. Steeped in Maryland history and rich in detail, it is a true, hidden treasure. As you experience the beauty of the Chapel, come listen to Fr. Leo's lecture and take a tour of the chapel. No two lectures are ever the same. Fr. Leo's humor and knowledge are always entertaining. Father Leo Larrivee is Pastor of Our Lady of the Angels Chapel. In 2009, Fr. Leo wrote a book chronicling the history of the chapel, <i>A Celebration in Color and Light</i>.					
Date:	December 29, 2026		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	OLOA Chapel		Additional Fee:	Free to all	

F39	Thinking INSIDE the Box: Research and Confessions of a Chocoholic				
Presenter:	Carol Veil	Facilitator:	Sherry Stewart		
		Does chocolate really have health benefits or is it all just wishful thinking? Join us for a look at the chemistry of chocolate and a summary of research on the health effects of chocolate consumption. You will also learn about varieties of cacao and the steps involved in the processing of chocolate. And through it all, you will gain some insight into the mind of a chocoholic!			
Carol Veil is a Professor Emerita of Biology, having spent most of her career teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology to pre-clinical students at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) in Arnold, MD. After a few years of retirement, she missed teaching and became an adjunct with Lifelong Learning at AACC. She now teaches through the Anne Arundel County Senior Centers and her course is entitled “In Sickness & in Health: How Does My Body Work?” That’s right, it’s anatomy & physiology for seniors! Carol has been a chocolate lover for as long as she can remember. At some point before retirement, she developed a presentation on scientific aspects of chocolate that she has shared with groups of both scientists and non-scientists.					
Date:	January 7, 2027	Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm		
Day:	Thursday	Session(s):	1	Seats:	200
Location:	Auditorium	Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00		

F40	Craft with Lisa: Valentine's Day Card				
Presenter:	Lisa Black		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
 Come make handcrafted Valentine's Day cards! We will be using a variety of tools and materials. Cut and glue for those who like to use their fine motor skills and be more precise. Oil pastels and watercolors or tissue paper, glue and scissors for those who enjoy a little more free flow. Experiment with all the techniques. Lisa will demonstrate and take you step-by-step through each process. Skill Level: Easy Lisa Black was an educator in the Baltimore County Public School system for 35 years, most of that time at Hillcrest Elementary School, teaching general education to 3rd grade and art to K-5. Since retiring, she has joined ELLIC as a volunteer arts and crafts instructor. She enjoys sharing her skills and experience from many years of creating and teaching art. Lisa lives in Catonsville.					
Date:	January 11, 18		Time:	10:00 - 11:30 am	
Day:	Mondays		Session(s):	2	Seats: 15
Location:	Cross Creek Craft Room		Additional Fee:	Enrolled members only Materials fee \$6.00	

F41	Making Modern Medical Miracles				
Presenter:	Wayne Smith, Linda Smith		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
			Journey with Charlestown residents Wayne and Linda Smith as they share Wayne's duel with a rare cancer, mesothelioma. It is caused by asbestos exposure, and develops in the tissue lining the lungs, abdomen, heart, and, in rarer cases, the testes. To date, there is no cure. They will discuss the roles of Johns Hopkins and the National Institutes of Health in treating this cancer. They will delve into how an emerging experimental immunotherapy, known as CAR T-cell therapy and available only through clinical trials, works, and Patient Number Three's miraculous response to it.		
Date:	January 11, 2027		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F42	A Short History of the U.S. Intelligence Community				
Presenter:	Ed Appel		Facilitator:	Margaret Eng	
			The U.S. Intelligence Community has evolved from George Washington's spies against the British through two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Anti-Terrorism and Counter-Narcotics. How did it come about? Today, America depends on intelligence collection to protect the nation against military attacks, terrorism, narcotics traffickers, cyber attacks, information warfare and spies. U.S. leaders have an advantage when developing strategies for international relations, military deployment, protective measures, and deterrence, using what many say are the world's premier collection, analysis and reporting agencies. It was not always that way.		
Exploring the developments that led to today's IC, we will learn about intelligence failures and successes, the country's past reluctance to create and empower agencies and some cases where lives and battles were lost. Some of our swashbuckling and covert personalities will be profiled. Edward J. Appel, Sr. (Ed), an active 5-year Charlestown resident, is a retired FBI Special Agent, National Security Council Director, corporate security executive, government consultant, nonprofit CEO, and adjunct professor. He has authored two books on cybervetting and a biography of his father, Charles Appel, who founded the FBI Laboratory. He spent 45 years in intelligence-related work, including teaching and writing.					
Date:	January 12, 2027		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F43	Mentalism: Why the Mind Loves Being Fooled				
Presenter:	Shalom Kelman		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
			Mentalism is not just entertainment – it is a live demonstration of how the mind builds reality. In this interactive presentation, neuro-ophthalmologist Shalom Kelman explores why mentalism feels so powerful: how attention is guided, expectations are shaped, memories are rewritten, and choices can feel free even when subtly influenced. Through live demonstrations and accessible neuroscience, the audience will experience moments of wonder and then understand the mental machinery behind them. The talk also explores the idea of “safe danger” – why we enjoy uncertainty, surprise, and even mild discomfort when we know we are safe. Mentalism becomes a window into perception, memory, belief, and the human need for meaning. Shalom Kelman, MD, is a Baltimore neuro-ophthalmologist with a longtime interest in perception, attention, illusion, and mentalism. His presentations combine live demonstrations, neuroscience, and storytelling to explore how the brain creates our experience of reality.		
Date:	January 13, 2027		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Wednesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F44	The American Revolution and the Fate of the World: An Electrifying Global History of a Not-So Local War				
Presenter:	Richard Bell		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
 When we think of the American Revolution, we often picture a parochial drama: thirteen colonies squaring off against the British Crown in a spirited bid for independence. Historian and author Richard Bell invites audiences to rediscover the Revolution as a world war that unleashed chaos, opportunity, and transformation across six continents. The war that gave birth to the United States was never simply America’s own. It was a seismic global event that redrew maps, toppled hierarchies, catalyzed migration, and accelerated new movements for liberty—and for empire. Dr. Bell traces the far-flung reverberations of the war through the lives of the people it displaced, empowered, or destroyed. He explores how the Revolution stirred a transoceanic refugee crisis, ignited antislavery activism, and inspired uprisings from Ireland to India. The program offers a bold new framework for understanding the Revolutionary War as a sprawling, high-stakes struggle fought on land and sea, shaped by commerce, diplomacy, propaganda, and contingency. This is the American Revolution: complex, global, and astonishingly relevant to the modern world. Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland. He is the author of the book <i>Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home</i>, which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. His new book, <i>The American Revolution and the Fate of the World</i>, published by Penguin, recently won the Journal of the American Revolution Book of the Year Award.					
Date:	January 25, 2027		Time:	10:30 - Noon	
Day:	Monday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

F45	Charlestown 101: Wise Eating with MyNutrition				
Presenter:	Michael Rogan, Hope Tillman, Melanie Garrido, Paul Edelman		Facilitator:	Sandy Ranno	
 MyNutrition is an online resource provided by Erickson that can assist residents in making wise choices to meet their nutritional goals, and assist with any dietary needs when dining at Erickson Senior Living Restaurants. This is a helpful tool to: • Identify and select well-balanced meals. • View the nutritional content and ingredients of food choices. • Filter out foods containing allergens/intolerances. • Select preferences for specific types of diets such as no sugar added, prepared without gluten, spicy, and vegetarian.					
This presentation will introduce residents to MyNutrition, demonstrate how to use the software, and explain the NetMenu/MyNutrition connection, which is how it fits into menu and meal planning at Charlestown. Michael Rogan is the current Coordinator of the Dietary Focus Group, a subcommittee of the Dining Services Committee of the Residents’ Council. In addition to healthy eating, he is also an avid gardener, with a particular interest in culinary herbs. Hope Tillman currently serves on the Communications Committee of the Residents’ Council and is involved in many other activities. She has life-long allergies and regularly uses MyNutrition to manage food choices at Charlestown restaurants. Melanie Garrido has been a Registered Dietitian at Charlestown for nearly four years. She promotes practical nutrition strategies that support both physical and mental well-being, and enjoys helping residents make informed choices that support long-term health. Paul Edelman is the Director of Dining Services at Charlestown. In his 14 years here, he has served as a general manager in the Terrace Cafe, Chesapeake, and Fireside Restaurants, rising to Assistant Director of Dining in 2020 and Director in 2025.					
Date:	January 26. 2027		Time:	1:00 - 2:30 pm	
Day:	Tuesday		Session(s):	1	Seats: 200
Location:	Auditorium		Additional Fee:	Non-members \$5.00	

External Presenters

David Allard, Retired, Pennsylvania DEP Director of the Bureau of Radiation Protection

Bradley Alston, Consultant, Baltimore National Heritage Area and History Tour Guide

Richard Bell, Professor, History, University of Maryland

Lisa Black, Arts and Crafts Instructor

Charles Blaha, Senior Advisor, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN). Retired, State Department International Organizations Bureau for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Tom and Joan Cain, Apiarists and owners of Morning Choice Apiary

Bradley Chambers, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Baltimore Region, Medstar Health

Kate Drabinski, Director, UMBC Humanities Scholars Program

William Feasley, Classical guitarist and founder of the D'Amore Duo

Mark Graber, Regents professor, University of Maryland Carey School of Law

David Hatch, Adjunct Professor at CCBC and Senior Historian for NSA

Jim Himel, Facilitator, Spring Grove Arboretum and Patapsco River Heritage Trail

Bob Jacobson, Semi-professional musician

Mary Ann Jung, Actress, Smithsonian Scholar

Shalom Kelman, Neuro-ophthalmologist

Christopher McNally, Executive vice president and legal counsel to the Baltimore Streetcar Museum. Partner and civil defense litigator at Bodie, Attorneys at Law.

Kevin Omland, Professor, UMBC, Department of Biological Sciences

Jim O'Leary, Retired Space Science and Astronomy Specialist for Maryland Science Center

Dan Rodricks, Retired columnist, The Baltimore Sun, author, playwright

Brian Rollfinke, Director of Education and Outreach for Wild Birds Unlimited at Timonium and Columbia

Bob Rychlik, Musician and teacher of the fujara and other traditional Slovak overtone flutes

Tom Scalea, Physician in Chief, Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland Medical Center

Manil Suri, Professor, UMBC, Mathematics

Maureen Sweeney, Professor, University of Maryland Carey School of Law, and Director of Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice

Lindsey Vajpeyi, Director, Education and Support, Insight Memory Care Center

Carol Veil, Professor Emerita of Biology, Anne Arundel Community College

Linda Whelihan, Faculty at Maryland Institute College of Art

William and Sue Wills, Creators/Actors of Dramatically Speaking - Presidents and First Ladies

Charlestown Resident and Staff Presenters

The ELLIC Steering Committee expresses its appreciation for the presentations volunteered by these Charlestown residents and staff.

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Ed Appel
Carol Benner
Elaine Breslaw
Mark Buehlman
Don Burgard
Peggy Carey
Phyllis Cole-Dai
Pat Fagan
Elizabeth Fanto
Joseph Gagliardi
Walt Howe
Fr. Leo Larivee
Paul Rao
Carl Roemer
Michael Rogan
Linda Smith
Wayne Smith
Hope Tillman
Margaret Vincent

Staff

Paul Edelman
Dining Services, Director

Mary Evans
Community Resources, Manager

Melanie Garrido
Registered Dietitian

Brittany Owens
Community Resources, Senior Coordinator

ELLIC Staff

Registrars

Bldgs. 1-9 (AS, CY, EW, FH, GC, MT, NC, CW, WO)	Diana Dunaway	<i>See Resident Directory for contact information.</i>
Charlestown Square (CC, CR, HV, PV, CW, WO)	Bob Ricketts	
Cross Creek (BR, HR, CW, WO)	Betty Elder	
St. Charles (ST, CW, WO)	Kay Buck	

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Donna Martin ♦ Sebastian Petix ♦ Sandy Ranno (Co-chair) ♦ Paul Rao ♦ Sherry Stewart
♦ Hope Tillman

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Barbara Bruso ♦ Bernice DeBels ♦ Donna Ferrara ♦ Gif Intlekofer (Lead) ♦ Lois Kimber ♦
Sally Morris ♦ Deb Patterson ♦ Lory Stoner

Auditorium Ushers

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Wheeler

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	Sandy Ranno			
Curriculum Planning	Art Johnson			
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	Kay Buck			
	Diana Dunaway			
	Betty Elder			
	Bob Ricketts			
Registration System	Sherry Stewart (Lead)			
AV Support	Sam Cushman (Lead)			
Zoom Support	Hope Tillman			
Staff Advisors	Brittany Owens	Community Resources	Ext: 601-8570	brittany.owens@erickson.com
	Mary Evans	Community Resources	Ext: 601-8558	mary.evans@erickson.com