



# LECTURE SERIES

## SPRING 2023

**FEBRUARY 1, 2023 – JUNE 14, 2023**

### **FEBRUARY 1, 2023 - BRENDON MILLER**

Brendon Miller is the chief of staff at the Washington Area Community Investment Fund where he provides executive leadership, performance management, and strategic guidance to the executive team. During his 20-year career, Miller has raised over \$400 million for domestic and global causes that advance equity and improve the human condition, including global experience in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. His personal mission is to capitalize and build support for great leaders and ideas by bringing outstanding fundraising, communications, and strategy to their efforts. He will be talking with us about lessons that have inspired him throughout his career and how they can be applied to create opportunity in our county and state.

### **FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - JENNIFER RUBIN**

Jennifer Rubin is an opinion writer and commentator for The Washington Post. She's had an interesting journey to this position. Rubin started out as a lawyer in Los Angeles working for Hollywood studios. After moving east in 2005, she began working as a freelance conservative columnist and arrived at the Post five years later. She is also an MSNBC contributor. Rubin covers politics and policy—foreign and domestic—and provides insight into the conservative movement, the Republican and Democratic parties, and threats to Western democracies. As the political spectrum has shifted, she now describes herself as more of a Patrick Moynihan Democrat than a conservative. As one of the most provocative voices in the Post's opinion page, Rubin will share her view of the current political landscape.

Book event: *Resistance: How Women Saved Democracy from Donald Trump*

### **FEBRUARY 15, 2023 - RUTH GOLOMB**

Ruth Goldfinger Golomb is a senior clinician, supervisor and a co-director of the training program at the Behavior Therapy Center of Greater Washington, where she has worked since the mid-1980's. She specializes in the treatment of anxiety disorders in children and adults, and has written numerous books and articles about this complex subject. Golomb's talk will focus on the surge of stress and anxiety since the onset of Covid when we were all thrust into

the new reality of fearing the virus and learning how to stay out of harm's way. Now that the world is beginning to open up, Golomb will examine why it is hard for many people to go out and feel normal again and ways to think about and control anxiety in this "new normal."

## **FEBRUARY 22, 2023 - SEEMA REZA**

Seema Reza is CEO and co-founder of Community Building Art Works, a non-profit organization that brings workshops led by professional artists to service members, veterans, and clinicians. Her work is featured in the 2018 HBO documentary [We Are Not Done Yet](#). Reza is also a poet, essayist, and the author of two books. She began working with current and former service members and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and has since developed a unique multi-hospital and community arts program that encourages the use of the arts as a tool for narration, self-care, and socialization. Reza will share her mission to make the world a little less lonely, and how each of us can use creativity to build deeper, more authentic connections to ourselves and the people around us.

Book Event: *A Constellation of Half-Lives*

## **MARCH 1, 2023 - JUDY MULLER**

Judy Muller is what Hollywood would call a hyphenate: Emmy and Peabody Award winning broadcast journalist—including stints at CBS News and ABC News—author, fly fishing aficionado, professor emerita at the University of Southern California, and storytelling addict. Muller will share the highs and lows of that addiction along with her observations about the state of journalism today. Her latest book, *"The Red-Headed Cook of the Desert: Meth, Murder and Motherhood"* is, in the words of one review, "...like 'Breaking Bad' meets 'Law and Order.'" But, this story happens to be true which helps explain why it captured the imagination of this outstanding journalist.

Book Event: *The Red-Headed Cook of the Desert: Meth, Murder and Motherhood*

## **MARCH 8, 2023 - JOSH KURTZ**

*Maryland Matters* founding editor Josh Kurtz is a veteran chronicler of Maryland politics and government. Kurtz launched *Maryland Matters*, a nonprofit news website, in 2017. It has grown from a blog powered by volunteers to a publication with more reporters covering the State House than any of its competitors. He began covering the State House in 1995 for *The Gazette* newspapers and has been writing about state and local politics ever since. Kurtz will share what it takes to launch and run an independent news site at a time when the business of journalism is struggling. He will also offer insights into the new administration in Annapolis and top issues facing the state of Maryland.

## **MARCH 15, 2023 - ROZ PELLEES**

Rosalyn Woodward Pelles is a veteran of the civil rights and workers' rights movements. During her career in social justice activism, she worked with the Congress of Racial Equality, Repairers of the Breach, the NAACP, the Rainbow Coalition, and the AFL-CIO as director of the Civil, Human, and Women's Rights Department. Pelles is currently the assistant director for Student Engagement and Lecturer at the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at the Yale University Divinity School. She also serves as the strategic advisor to the Poor People's Campaign. In 2019, she received the Forward Justice Ella Baker Award and Montgomery County's MLK Humanitarian Award. Pelles will discuss the goals and strategies of the Poor People's Campaign, and the challenges and triumphs involved in organizing low-wealth people to work toward political change.

## **MARCH 22, 2023 - JASON GEDEIK**

Jason Gedeik is the adult education manager at Brookside Gardens, where he enjoys teaching and curating lecture series, workshops, garden tours, and environmental festivals. Prior to Brookside Gardens, he was head gardener at the Hillwood Estate. Gedeik will let us in on the secrets of creating a gorgeous garden. Finding the perfect plant combinations to create exciting and eye-catching designs can often be an exhausting experience of trial and error that wastes money and time. This lecture will save you the hassle by presenting ideal plant pairings that guarantee to provide beauty and work well in the landscape. You'll learn key landscape design criteria, so you can create your own winning combinations to amplify your garden's beauty.

## **MARCH 29, 2023 – DEBBIE FEINSTEIN AND CHERYL KRAVITZ**

Victims of domestic violence have two strong advocates in Montgomery County and beyond: Debbie Feinstein has been an assistant State's Attorney in Montgomery County, Maryland, for the past 22 years. In 2012, she became the chief of the Special Victims Division, where she supervises and prosecutes cases involving homicide, child abuse and exploitation, domestic violence, elder abuse, human trafficking, and sexual assault. Feinstein is an adjunct professor at American University's Washington College of Law. Cheryl Kravitz, a survivor of domestic violence, is respected nationally for her expertise in issues management, media relations, writing, diversity training, financial development, and motivational speaking. She writes for national and local news outlets and currently consults with several organizations. Feinstein will offer insights on how to identify signs of abuse and how her office fights domestic violence, while Kravitz will share her personal story of survival.

## **APRIL 5, 2023 - SPRING BREAK - NO WMG PROGRAM**

### **APRIL 12, 2023 - JACKIE DECARLO**

As CEO of Manna Food Center, a nonprofit grassroots organization designated as Montgomery County's food bank, Jackie DeCarlo leads Manna's strategic development to achieve its mission of ending hunger through food distribution, education, and advocacy. In addition to its services and programs directed toward food for families and community food education, Manna leads Community Food Rescue, a coordinated food recovery network designed to reduce both food waste and hunger in the County; as well as Farm to Food Bank, a program supporting a stronger local food system. DeCarlo will speak about Manna's initiatives to reduce food insecurity and promote health and sustainability in our region.

### **APRIL 19, 2023 - MURRY SIDLIN**

Murry Sidlin is the president and artistic director of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, the creative producer/music director of the award-winning documentary film *Defiant Requiem*, and the conductor and creator of the concert-dramas *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin* and *Hours of Freedom: The Story of the Terezin Composer*. Sidlin began his career as assistant conductor of the Baltimore Symphony and then was appointed resident conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra. He has held the posts of music director, artistic director, and principal guest conductor for numerous prestigious orchestras and festivals, and has appeared as a guest conductor around the world. Sidlin will share the riveting story of how he created *Defiant Requiem* and why it so strongly resonates with audiences around the world.

### **APRIL 26, 2023 - MAUREEN BUNYAN**

Maureen Bunyan is an Aruban-American television journalist who was a long-time co-anchor at WUSA-TV and later at WJLA-TV. Bunyan is a founder and board member of the International Women's Media Foundation and a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists. Her work has earned her many awards, including Journalist of the Year, the Immigrant Achievement Award from the American Immigration Law Foundation, and local Emmy awards. She has maintained strong ties with her native Aruba, mentoring Aruban young people in tandem with the Aruban Ministry of Education along with Harvard and other American universities – work for which she was knighted by the Netherlands. Bunyan will share observations and personal experiences about the changing roles and expectations of women in the media.

### **MAY 3, 2023 - ROB GLICKSMAN**

Rob Glicksman is a chaired professor who teaches environmental law at the George Washington University Law School. He has long devoted his career to writing and teaching about environmental and natural resources law. Glicksman's extensive publications include scholarly monographs, law school textbooks, the leading treatise on public natural resources law in the U.S., and law review articles that have appeared in journals at many of the nation's leading law schools. His presentation will focus on the Supreme Court's environmental law jurisprudence, including its recent significant decisions concerning regulation of activities that contribute to climate change or cause water pollution.

### **MAY 10, 2023 - REEMBERTO RODRIQUEZ**

Reemberto Rodriquez was born in Cuba, raised in the American south and currently lives in Silver Spring where, for many years, he served as one of the County's five regional directors, making him the key liaison between the community and elected officials. Rodriquez is now an Affiliate Instructor with the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland. His lecture will take us far from home and focus on Havana's art and culture. Rodriquez travels to Havana frequently, most recently leading a study abroad course for the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Sharing personal photographs, he will discuss Havana's historical context and current challenges through the lenses of its rich art and culture.

### **MAY 17, 2023 - KATE MARKERT**

Kate Markert has been executive director of Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens, since 2010. During that time, she has transformed this public treasure in the heart of northwest DC. Through strategic planning, exciting special exhibition programs, relevant public programs, revitalized gardens, and more, she has dramatically increased attendance. Before joining Hillwood, Markert was director of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut; associate director of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore; and deputy director and acting director of the Cleveland Museum of Art. Markert is a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors and the Directors of Large Gardens. She will talk about how she and her team revitalized the programs and re-branded Hillwood's museum and gardens.

### **MAY 24, 2023 - FRANCIS COLLINS**

Dr. Francis Collins is a towering figure in medicine and public health. A former director of the National Institutes of Health, he is a physician-geneticist, world-renowned for his leadership of the Human Genome Project and the landmark discoveries of numerous important genes, including those responsible for cystic fibrosis, neurofibromatosis, Huntington's disease, and type-2 diabetes. Most recently he has served as the acting science advisor to President Biden. Dr. Collins will talk with us about the intersection of science and religion, and how his life view, as an evangelical Christian, informs his approach to medicine and science.

## **MAY 31, 2023 - CORINNA LATHAN**

Dr. Corinna Lathan is a neuroscientist, technology pioneer, advocate, and author of a best-selling book, *Inventing the Future, Stories from a Techno-Optimist*. She is co-founder and long-time CEO of AnthroTronix, a technology innovation firm based in Silver Spring. Dr. Lathan is also an active thought leader and public speaker on technology trends that impact business, health and health care, education, and entrepreneurship. She is an advocate for STEM education, global health, and LGBTQ+ issues and serves on several not-for-profit boards including the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, the KID Museum and Engineering World Health. Dr. Lathan will take on the big topic of inventing the future!

Book event: *Inventing the Future: Stories from a Techno-Optimist*

## **JUNE 7, 2023 - EDAMARIE MATTAI**

Edamarie Mattai founded Backyard Bounty fourteen years ago as her own personal renewal from the concrete jungle of her earlier career as a teacher. Her work focuses on creating gardens—or interactive landscapes—that connect us to nature and to each other. Mattai is seeing a growing trend towards clients creating outdoor spaces that nourish the land and, also, ‘the soul’ as one client has remarked. She will speak about re-imagining the American landscape and why. Mattai also will describe her observations on changing landscape tastes, how to get started, and how to weave habitat and home.

## **JUNE 14, 2023 - BARTON RUBENSTEIN**

Barton Rubenstein is an internationally renowned scientist, sculptor, and activist. He has over 100 public art commissions, including the Smithsonian’s Portrait of Nation Award and a wind-kinetic sculpture at the official residence of the Vice President. Rubenstein and his family are co-founders of the Mother Earth Project, which uses art to activate sustainable communities in over 80 countries. Rubenstein has a PhD in neuroscience from the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel. He will discuss how and why he made the transition from science to art and will share the art and stories behind some of his recent commissions.

Book Event: *A Life without Mom*