Great Presenters Series 2019 | 2020



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Barbara Grad

April 7
7:30 p.m.

Home Grown - Paintings by Barbara Grad

Wayland artist Barbara Grad will present projected images of her large oil paintings and works on paper. She will discuss the painting process, the changes which have impacted her works, and the nuances of color and line to develop a dialogue. As a founding member of one of the first women's art collaboratives in America, she can also comment on challenges she faced as a woman artist exhibiting in galleries and museums.

Barbara Grad earned a BFA and MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is a Professor Emeritus, Massachusetts College of Art & Design. Her awards include: ART Berkshire Taconic Foundation, William Hicks Fellowship, MA Cultural Council Grant, New England NEA, MA Foundation Award, 20x24 Polaroid Grant, two Brown Fellowships, an Art Institute of Chicago award, and an NEA Individual Artist Award. Her work is represented by the Howard Yezerski Gallery, Boston, MA.



Evan Hadingham

October 1
7:30 p.m.

Adventures with NOVA

NOVA, currently in its 46th season on PBS, is the most widely watched science program on U.S. television. As the series' Science Editor for over two decades, Wayland resident Evan Hadingham is charged with ensuring the editorial accuracy of the series, evaluating ideas for new programs, and working on the storytelling of each episode.

In this talk, Evan will highlight what was special about a few of NOVA's most notable past shows and will offer a taste of some exciting future programs. He'll discuss the challenges of communicating science to the public in a fast-changing media landscape, and touch on the personal journey that led him to his job at NOVA.

Evan Hadingham is the Senior Science Editor of NOVA, the PBS science series produced at WGBH in Boston. He has editorial responsibility for developing ideas and overseeing the science content of all NOVA's documentaries and special series. He is the author of popular books on archaeology and prehistory and has written numerous feature articles on science that have appeared in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, *Discover*, and elsewhere. His most recent project is a book on the fifty greatest discoveries in human origins, commissioned by the Leakey Foundation.



Conrad Gees

May 5
7:30 p.m.

Cuba - More than Classic American Cars & 1950s Nostalgia

There is truth in the statement, "Havana is a city frozen in time 60+ years ago," but it is a characterization which can lead one to a false sense of sentimentality or condescension. Havana today is the outgrowth of the 1959 Revolution, the US Embargo, the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, which forced the inhabitants of this city, just 90 miles off the US coast, to develop in ways they can speak of with great pride, and in ways which leave them longing for more. I have concentrated on the sections of Havana known as "Habana Vieja" and "Centro Habana," now United Nations World Heritage sites being renovated and brought back to life and decided to document not only the buildings, but the people living in these sections of the city and their resilience and ingenuity.

Conrad Gees is a retired Wayland School Teacher who now has the time to pursue his love of photographing the world around him. His photography is aimed at trying to record what Henri Cartier Bresson described as "the decisive moment" - moments when "swift chance, disarray, wonder and experiment" lead to an image which speaks to more than the subject at hand, much as a poem can convey meaning far beyond a literal interpretation. He looks forward to viewers seeing this in his photographs – many of which are on display here on the Raytheon Room walls.



lan Condry

November 5
7:30 p.m.

Hearing the Future in Music in Tokyo, Boston, and Berlin

In the 21st century, musicians have faced a whiplash of technological and cultural change that has fundamentally altered the social and business relations around music. Might current musical experiments point to possibilities for post-capitalist futures? Examples from Tokyo, Boston, and Berlin will explore pop idols, virtual singers, underground techno, crowd-funding pioneers, and spatial audio sound art. What might seem like a flatland of economic commodification of music is in fact a fluid, shifting landscape that points to a fundamental curvature of social-economic spacetime.

lan Condry is a cultural anthropologist and professor at MIT since 2002. He is the author of two books, *Hip-Hop Japan* and *The Soul of Anime*, both of which examine how cultural movements go global from below. He is currently working on a book exploring at music and musicians after the end of the recording industry, with a comparison of Tokyo, Boston, and Berlin. He is the founder of the Dissolve Music series, and organizer of the MIT Spatial Sound Lab, which makes multi-perspective sonic experiences to explore the possibilities of sound for transforming learning and democracy. He hosts the radio show "Near and Far" on WMBR 88.1 FM Cambridge and online at wmbr.org.

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Kathy Defina

December 3
7:30 p.m.

The Magic of Silk Painting

Silk painting has been done for centuries in Asia, it's been big in Europe for years, and its interest is slowly growing in the wearable art industry here. There is something magical about watching the dyes come alive as you touch the paintbrush to the silk. It flows like the ocean taking on a life of its own. It has the same effect on your soul as watching waves come and go at the beach.

Kathy Defina is a self-taught silk artist. She has been painting for over 20 years, but has fallen in love with the art of silk painting within the last 5 years. Her passion for silk painting led her to study under one of the few Master Silk Painters. She continues to learn and grow her art. Her concentration is wearable art and her dream is to have her fine art silk paintings shown in galleries.





Alan Marscher & Svetlana Jorstad February 4 7:30 p.m.

Black Hole Monsters at the Centers of Galaxies

Ironically, black holes create the most luminous objects in the universe. The speakers study super-massive black holes at the centers of galaxies, and are members of a team that recently imaged the "black hole shadow" in the center of the galaxy M87. They will discuss how gas falling onto black holes and jets of high-energy particles powered by the black hole's spin cause the centers of galaxies to shine brightly across the entire spectrum from radio to visible to X-ray and gamma-ray wavelengths.

Dr. Alan Marscher is a professor of astronomy, and Dr. Svetlana Jorstad is a senior research associate in the Institute for Astrophysical Research at Boston University. Together they have published over 200 articles in scientific journals on the topic of quasars and other types of active galactic nuclei. They use data from a number of NASA satellite observatories and ground-based telescopes to follow variations in brightness and changes in images of jets of high-energy particles and magnetic fields at the centers of some galaxies.



Brian Donahue

January 7
7:30 p.m.

Up and Down the River: The History and Future of Farming and Conservation in New England

This talk will look at the development of farming, woodlands, and conservation along the Sudbury River from pre-European times to today. It will then expand to envision the possible future of farming in New England, in a changing world.

Brian Donahue is Associate Professor of American Environmental Studies on the Jack Meyerhoff Fund at Brandeis University, and Environmental Historian at Harvard Forest. He teaches courses on environmental history and sustainable farming and forestry, and he holds a BA, MA, and PhD from the Brandeis program in the History of American Civilization. He co-founded and for 12 years directed Land's Sake, a non-profit community farm in Weston, and now sits on the board of the Thoreau Farm Trust and The Land Institute. Donahue wrote or co-authored a number of books on farming and conservation and received multiple awards for them. He is also co-author of Wildlands and Woodlands and A New England Food Vision, initiatives working towards conserving 85% of the New England Landscape (wildlandsandwoodlands.org).



James Karlson

March 3
7:30 p.m.

Sports Medicine: Not Just for the Professional Athlete

Dr. Karlson will discuss the topic of sports medicine and his experience treating athletes, from professionals to weekend warriors. He will review common sports injuries, standard treatment, and injury prevention.

Dr. James Karlson has been a resident of Wayland since 1996. For 20 years, he was the volunteer team physician for the Wayland High School football team. His three children participated in swimming, lacrosse, sailing and horseback riding, giving him many opportunities to apply his knowledge of sports medicine. He is currently a practicing sports medicine physician and partner at Pro Sports Orthopedics and Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at the Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA.