

Evening-and-Weekend Lecture Series 2019-2020

*All lectures are co-sponsored by the Wellesley Council on Aging
& the Wellesley Free Library*



**Sunday,
October 6, 2019
2:00 pm
Wakelin Room
Wellesley Main Library**

“The Italians in Boston”
Stephen Puleo, Historian and Author

Stephen Puleo is the author of the Boston Globe best seller *The Boston Italians: A Story of Pride, Perseverance, and Paesani, from the Years of the Great Immigration to the Present Day*. This well-researched and engaging history has been described as “a compelling document that honors the generations of immigrants who inspired it.” A former award-winning newspaper reporter and contributor to *American History* magazine, Puleo holds a master’s degree in history and wrote his thesis on Italian immigration and the settlement of Boston’s North End. A highly regarded speaker in our series previously, Stephen Puleo returns to our stage to speak about the rich history of Italian immigrants in Boston from the 19th century right up to the present. He will focus, in particular, on the role of Boston’s North End in the Italians’ remarkable and inspiring rise “from rags to riches.” This program is co-sponsored by the Wellesley Historical Society.

**Sunday
November 17, 2019
2:00 pm
Wakelin Room
Wellesley Main Library**

“Black Holes and the Event Horizon Telescope”
Dom Pesce, Postdoctoral fellow, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Black holes have long been a source of great interest and mystery. They are objects at the center of galaxies that are so dense that not even light can escape them, and therefore black holes cannot be seen by the human eye. However, when a black hole and a star are close together, high-energy light is made. Scientists have tried to use satellites and telescopes in space to see this light. Following on a century of research into the mysterious nature of black holes, finally on April 10, 2019 a very exciting break-through happened: the first ever direct image of a black hole and its vicinity was published based on observations made by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT). Join us to hear about this remarkable scientific journey. Dom Pesce, EHT postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard University Black Hole Initiative, will be on hand to describe the quest to assemble the Event Horizon Telescope -- an Earth-sized network of dishes with a resolution several thousand times better than that of the Hubble Space Telescope -- and how it was used to take the first ever picture of a black hole.

**Sunday
January 12, 2020
2:00 pm
Wakelin Room
Wellesley Main Library**

“Changing Times”
Shirley Leung, Interim Editorial Page Editor, Business Writer, The Boston Globe

Shirley Leung is a columnist who has written about everything from the intersection of business and politics to gender issues in the workplace. She is also a WGBH contributor to “Boston Public Radio” and “Greater Boston” as well as a regular guest on New England Cable News. In 2018, Boston Magazine named her to its list of the “100 Most Influential People in Boston.” She was a finalist in 2015 and 2017 for the Gerald Loeb Award for Commentary, the most prestigious honor in business journalism. Leung is currently the Interim Editorial Page Editor for The Boston Globe. Previously, she was the Globe’s business editor, where she oversaw its award-winning coverage of the 2008 financial crisis. Prior to the Globe, Leung was a staff reporter at The Wall Street Journal. A graduate of Princeton University, Leung started her career at her hometown paper, The Baltimore Sun. She will be speaking about the challenges businesses face in our changing times.

Continued on reverse

Thursday
March 12, 2020
7:00 pm
Wakelin Room
Wellesley Main Library

“Jazz Throughout the Twentieth Century”
Eric Jackson, Host, “Eric in the Evening,” WGBH 89.7

Eric Jackson, the host of WGBH’s “Eric in the Evening,” is widely considered the Dean of Boston Jazz Radio. Over the years, Jackson has hosted more than 3,000 interviews with music greats ranging from Wynton Marsalis to Ornette Coleman to Dizzy Gillespie. He became a regular part of the WGBH lineup in 1977 with “Artists in the Night,” an overnight jazz music showcase. “Eric in the Evening” debuted in 1981 and with it his emergence as one of public broadcasting’s most popular on-air personalities. Jackson keeps his show fresh by playing music from all corners of the jazz world, celebrating artists’ birthdays - a way to bring less familiar musicians into the mix - and giving his own wide-ranging taste free rein. In a single show he might play jazz from the 1920s and electronic music composed last year. In addition to public broadcasting, Jackson is also a member of the Northeastern University faculty where he teaches a course entitled The African American Experience through Music. WGBH recently celebrated Jackson’s more than 40 years on-air with “Eric Jackson Week.”

Sunday
April 26, 2020
2:00 pm
Wakelin Room
Wellesley Main Library

“Volante Farms: A Century of Growing”
Teri Volante Boardman, Co-Owner

Italian immigrants Peter and Caterina Volante began Volante Farms as a truck farm in 1917 in Newton. It was predominately a truck farm then, delivering every morning to the Boston Produce Market. Shortly after WWII, Peter and Caterina’s daughter Margie opened the first physical farm stand in front of the family’s home. By the end of the 1950’s the stand was the primary source of income for the farm. In 1962, Ferdinand and Anne Volante moved their family from the farm in Newton to Needham. Anne, her sister Margie, Ferdinand and his brother Eugenio ran the farm together until 1973 when Al, Ferdinand and Anne’s son, were given the responsibility of everyday operations. Volante Farms has now grown into a year-round one stop shop for the community. As a celebration of their centennial in 2017, the Volante Family published a cookbook which has both recipes and family history intermingled throughout its pages. Fourth generation owner. Teri Volante Boardman will delve into the history of her family business and how it has evolved and grown over the years

The Wellesley Council on Aging Transportation Services may be available to provide transportation for these events. If you need transportation, please call the Wellesley Council on Aging Transportation Coordinators at (781) 235-3046 at least 3 business days in advance.

*The Evening-and-Weekend Lecture Series is made possible by a generous grant from
The Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club.*

