

South Ferry Church

Speaker Program Series – Summer 2024

Please join us at the South Ferry Church on South Ferry Road in Narragansett for a series of community speaking programs. Pertinent to state, national and international issues and events, the speaking programs encompass a broad array of topics important in today's ever changing and challenging world. Programs are held from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Mondays, and are free and open to the community.

Monday August 5 – Ukraine's Uncertain Future – **Nikolas K. Gvosdev** - is Professor of National Security Affairs at the U.S. Naval War College and an instructor at the Harvard Extension School, Harvard University. He is a Senior Fellow for the U.S. Global Engagement program at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. He is also a Senior Fellow for National Security Affairs at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and editor of its journal *Orbis*. He has co-authored numerous books on foreign policy and was a co-editor for the *Oxford Handbook of U.S. National Security*. He is a frequent commentator on U.S. foreign policy and international relations, the intersection of geopolitics and geo-economics, Russian and Eurasian affairs, and developments in the Middle East.

Monday August 12 – The Implications of the 2024 Election – **Wendy J. Schiller** - is Alison S. Ressler Professor of Political Science, Professor of Public & International Affairs, and Director, Taubman Center for American Politics & Policy at Brown University. On July 1, 2024 Professor Schiller will assume the position of Howard Swearer Interim Director of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. She earned her A.B. from the University of Chicago and her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Rochester. In addition to writing numerous books and published articles she provides political analysis to Bloomberg Radio and Television, The Guardian newspaper, Agence France-Presse and other outlets. She also provides local political commentary to the Providence Journal, WPRO radio, RIPBS A Lively Experiment and is the political analyst for WJAR10, the local NBC affiliate in Providence.

Monday August 19 – Strategic and Political Dimensions of Middle East Politics and the Israeli/Hamas War – **Marc Genest** - is the Forrest Sherman Professor of Public Policy in the Strategy and Policy Department at the Naval War College and the area study coordinator for the Insurgency and Terrorism program. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island and holds a doctorate in International Politics from Georgetown University. He is the founding co-director on the Naval War College's Center on Irregular Warfare and Allied Groups. He served as a civilian advisor in Afghanistan and received the Commander's award from the Army as special advisor to the Commander of Task Force Mountain Warrior. He has written numerous books and articles on international relations, strategic communication and American Foreign Policy and public opinion.

Monday August 26 – The Upcoming Season and Changes at The GAMM and Challenges Facing Arts Nonprofits – **Jason Cabral** - assumed the role of executive director for The Gamm Theatre in August 2023. A mission-driven leader, he has notable experience driving fundraising campaigns and operations at non-profits nationwide, including prominent performing arts organizations in New York City and Los Angeles. At The Public Theater and Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York, he held senior management roles and contributed to the development of donor-first giving programs that collectively raised over \$24 million annually. He has an M.F.A. in acting from Wayne State University and a B.A. in theater performance from Rhode Island College. Prior to working as an administrator, he was an actor and teaching artist.