



Isaac Harris Cary Educational Fund
Lexington, MA 02420

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Mark Your Calendar Four Free Annual Lectures

- Saturday, October 7, 2023
- Saturday, November 18, 2023
- Saturday, March 9, 2024
- Saturday, April 20, 2024

Visit our website carylectureseries.org for more details about our speakers, lecture locations and to sign up to receive reminders about our upcoming lectures.

Hosted by the **Cary Lecture Committee**:
Monica Galizzi, Rita Goldberg, Kevin Oye, Omar H. Khudari, and Meryl Loonin.

Co-sponsored by



An Accidental Triumph: The Improbable History of American Higher Education

with Sol Gittleman
October 7, 2023

Hardly a day passes without criticism of American higher education. Supreme Court decisions on admissions and student debt, ideological attacks on faculty and curriculum, anxiety about the cost of college, and the fake athletic admissions scandals have all taken their toll. But there's another side to this story. America has created, mostly by accident, a higher education enterprise unlike any in the world with a \$368 trade surplus. In the years after WW II, American faculty have dominated in Nobel Prizes, while millions of international students attend American universities. We have become—and continue to be—the envy of the world despite recent hostility in our own country. How did this happen?

Sol Gittleman is a Tufts Professor Emeritus, past Provost, and prolific author of 6 books, including *Reynolds, Raschi and Lopat: New York's Big Three and the Great Yankee Dynasty of 1949-1953* and *From Shetl to Suburbia: The Family in Jewish Literary Imagination*.



A Life Through Music

with Jeff Leonard and Friends
March 9, 2024

For decades, researchers have touted the benefits of studying music throughout a person's lifespan to improve memory, executive function, language acquisition, and brain plasticity. But what about joy, passion, creativity, and connections to others? This session will showcase the fascinating stories and experiences of several alumni of the Lexington Public Schools. Whether music has become their vocation—or an important avocation—they will share how studying and performing music has deeply enriched and shaped their lives. We encourage middle and high school students and their parents to attend as they consider the next steps in their journeys.

From 1983 to 2017, Jeffrey Leonard served as director of the LHS bands, jazz program, and Performing Arts Coordinator. He is currently an Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music, Adjunct Professor at Boston University, and co-director of the Youth Jazz Orchestra at the New England Conservatory Preparatory Division.



Creating Equality of Opportunity in America: New Insights from Big Data

with Raj Chetty
April 20, 2024

Children's chances of earning more than their parents have fallen from 90% to 50% over the past half century in America. In his work with colleagues at Harvard, Professor Chetty asks how can we restore the American Dream of upward mobility for our children? He discusses how and why children's chances of climbing the income ladder vary across neighborhoods, the persistence of racial disparities in economic mobility, and the role of social capital in promoting upward mobility. The talk will conclude by discussing how these research findings can be used to change policies in domains ranging from affordable housing to higher education to improve economic opportunities for all.

Raj Chetty is the William A. Ackman Professor of Public Economics at Harvard University, Director of the nonprofit Opportunity Insights, recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, and one of the youngest tenured professors in Harvard history.

Cary Memorial Hall
1605 Massachusetts Ave
Lexington, MA

2023-2024 Cary Lecture Series
AN ANNUAL SERIES OF FREE LECTURES IN LEXINGTON

Cooking up Dumplings, Social Justice, and Sustainability

with Irene Li
November 18, 2023

Chef, entrepreneur, and activist, Irene Li, is a dynamic leader on the Boston food scene who has devoted her career to sustainability, financial literacy, and workforce equity in the restaurant industry. At her dumpling factory, café, and classroom, Mei Mei, her team crafts dumplings using ethically sourced ingredients, combining them in delicious new ways. With her latest venture, Prepshift, she also coaches fellow business owners to thrive sustainably and equitably. Ms. Li will discuss how she has forged a path as a successful Asian American woman chef and restaurateur, while fighting to build a better, fairer food system.

Irene Li received the 2022 James Beard Foundation Leadership Award for her efforts to address food insecurity and support independent restaurants. She is the co-author, with her siblings of *Perfectly Good Food: A Totally Achievable Zero Waste Approach to Home Cooking and Double Awesome Chinese Food*.

