Spring 2016 Tuesday Lecture Series
12:15 – 1:15 pm
Temple Baptist Church — Lower Level
3850 Nebraska Ave. NW, Washington, DC

Tuesday, March 1 — Lonny Bramzon
Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Police Encounters
“Lonny the Street Lawyer” dissects the most controversial interaction that occurs on a daily basis: the government vs. the individual. This engagement usually manifests itself when law enforcement officers interact with a member of the public. Increasingly in the past few years, police interaction has become the point of discussion regarding individual rights, race, economic status, and the role of government. Having represented over 4,000 criminal defendants in his career, Lonny Bramzon has a comprehensive perspective on police encounters with the public. He will break down how these situations are initiated all the way through how they are resolved. He will explain what really, really goes down in our streets.

Lonny Bramzon, a graduate of Stanford University and Columbia Law School, began as a Public Defender in Baltimore City before opening a private criminal defense practice. With an emphasis on street crimes, he has tried cases all over Maryland; Washington, DC; and federal courts. As a regular guest host on DC 101 Radio, he discusses crime and society every Tuesday night.

Tuesday, March 8 — Mark Plotkin
DC, The Last Colony, and Other Matters
With his trademark irreverent insight, Mark Plotkin will review the current state of the presidential campaign, the challenges facing both parties, and the prospect of an independent run by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He will discuss the battle for control of the US Senate and examine the seats that are in play. Turning his attention to important local races, he will look at the faceoff between Maryland Congressional candidates Kathleen Matthews and Jamie Raskin. He will discuss the dream for DC Statehood, his view that President Obama has been indifferent to the city, and end with a few outrageous Chicago political stories.

Mark Plotkin is the former political analyst for WAMU Radio, News Channel 8, and WTOP Radio. He is currently a contributor to the BBC on American Politics and a columnist for TheHill.com and The Georgetowner.

Tuesday, March 15 — Manuel Silberstein
The Origins of Islam
What was it like to live in Arabia at the time of Mohammed? What inspired him to create the idea of Islam? How did illiterate Mohammed “write” the Holy Koran? Who are the Shias, the Sunnis, and the Sufis? Who is the Aga Khan? These are just a few of the topics Manuel Silberstein will address. Others include the succession of the caliphate after Mohammed’s death in 632 AD and the phenomenal spread of Islam as far away as Indonesia and the Iberian Peninsula where it prospered for 700 years.

Manuel Silberstein entered the State Department’s Foreign Service in 1951 and retired in 1985, serving abroad in nine countries, two of which were India and Pakistan. Since 1992, he has been a docent at the Smithsonian’s Asian Art Museums, the Freer and Sackler Galleries, providing tours on many aspects of Asian art, culture, and belief systems.

Tuesday, March 22 — Pat Mulloy
How China Leveraged the West to Grow Its Economy and Rebuild Its Comprehensive National Power
Today, 38 years after China embarked on its “comprehensive national power” strategy to persuade Western governments, corporations, and investment banks to help rebuild the Chinese economy, the country has emerged as a dominant Asian power and major force in the global economy. However, many of the incentives China has used to grow are causing major problems for the US. Pat Mulloy discusses how China’s policies that underprice its currency, subsidize investment taxes, erect import barriers, and incentivize US corporations to outsource production, are all affecting American employment, trade deficits, and even innovation.

From 2001 to 2011 the Honorable Patrick A. Mulloy was a member of the bipartisan US-China Economic Security Review Commission. His prior positions include Assistant Secretary in the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration and General Counsel to the US Senate Banking Committee. He received his LLM from Harvard University Law School and JD from the George Washington University Law School.
Tuesday, March 29 — Ed Lazere

DC’s Growing Income Divide: What Can We Do About it?
Income inequality has always been an issue in the District, but it has become increasingly urgent in recent years. The city is not able to keep up with rising homelessness fueled by the disappearance of low-cost housing. Meanwhile, DC residents without a college degree face falling wages as well as an unemployment rate which has not recovered from the Great Recession. DC’s growing economy is not benefiting everyone. In fact, it is creating victims in its wake. This discussion will highlight the city’s economic challenges and explore policy initiatives to make DC a city where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

Ed Lazere is Executive Director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, which is a leader in conducting research to identify the challenges facing low-income residents. The DC Fiscal Policy Institute also engages in advocacy to promote budget and policy solutions that will expand economic opportunity and reduce income inequality in the District of Columbia.

Tuesday, April 5 — Annie Mahon

Making Peace with Our Eating Habits
Annie Mahon, founder of the highly successful Circle Yoga, will talk about our relationship with food and eating through the lens of mindfulness and our social and individual conditioning. She will offer simple practices such as journaling and focusing to help us learn to be with the parts of us that struggle with using food as emotional comfort and the parts that judge us for eating too much. In addition, we will learn the basics of mindfulness and the benefits of self-compassion. Annie Mahon is a yoga and mindfulness teacher and founder of the Circle Yoga Cooperative and DC Yoga Week. She is also an ordained lay Buddhist minister and licensed massage therapist and writes a blog at rawmindfulness.com and recently published her second book, Things I Did When I Was Hungry: Navigating a Peaceful Relationship with Food.

Tuesday, April 12 — ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 19 — Robert Hitlin

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Presidential Polls but Were Afraid to Ask
We are surrounded by polls in this presidential election year, but do we know how accurate they are? How can we know which ones are reliable? What are some of the problems that pollsters have in taking accurate surveys? Besides horse race numbers, how else do campaigns use surveys? Robert Hitlin has taught Political Science at American University and at Georgetown University. He also has spent 45 years conducting surveys for clients in government, politics, national associations, nonprofits, and businesses. His book How to Explain Almost Everything: The Power of Probability in Everyday Life discusses probability in finance, law, and survey research. On his website probability101.net, he posts links to articles about probability in everyday life.

Tuesday, April 26 — Marc Lackritz

Prudent Manager of Our Economy Or Undemocratic Threat to Our Liberty?: The Long, Strange Career of the Federal Reserve
Marc Lackritz will focus on the “long, strange trip” of the Federal Reserve — its creation, a brief history of its successes and failures, relevant policy issues, and why and how it matters today. He also will touch on the Fed’s primary role in both creating the recent financial crisis and then resolving it, the Fed’s recent efforts to become more transparent, and Congress’ perpetual initiative to make the Fed more “accountable.”

Marc Lackritz has served as President and CEO of Wall Street’s main trade association, the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. Since 2007, he has been an Adjunct Professor of Finance at Georgetown’s McDonough School of Business.

OLLI does not endorse any of the viewpoints expressed by the speakers in its series.

We thank the Lecture Committee and all those who suggested and contacted speakers: Chuck Edson, Dave Freeman, Ken Guenther, Naomi Heller, Tina Fried Heller, Lynne Heneson, Jeanne Kent, Denise Liebowitz (Chair), Dorothy Marschak, Mary Fran Miklitsch, Stan Newman, Paul Piazza, Diane Renfroe, Richard Ringell, and Barbara Rollinson.