

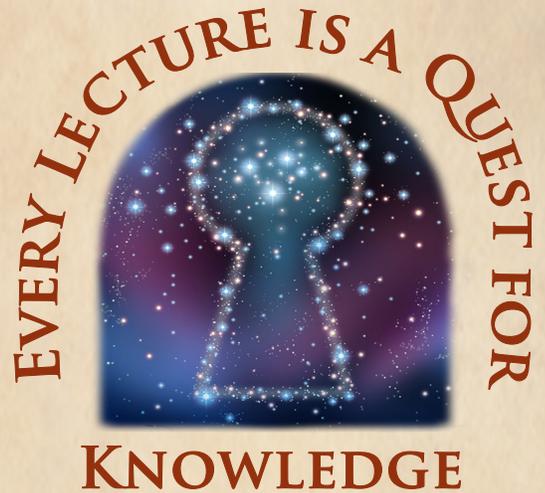


# PARKER

2017 LECTURE SERIES

## ARMCHAIR EXPLORATIONS

*Presented by*  
DR. MICHAEL WALLACH



**JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>**  
Transcending Time & Space:  
The Virtual Choir

**FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
It's Good To Be King:  
The History of Divorce

**MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
The Forgotten Genius:  
Nikola Tesla

**APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**  
The Increase & Diffusion of  
Knowledge: The Smithsonian

**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**  
How Words Won World War II:  
The Navajo Code Talkers

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS  
OF THE MONTH**  
1:00-2:00 PM



**PARKER**  
at the Pavilion

443 River Road • Highland Park  
Pavilion Theater – 2nd floor

Attendance is **FREE** but space is limited  
Sign up for the entire series

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Contact Daniel Carr at [dcarr@feparker.net](mailto:dcarr@feparker.net) or  
732-565-2496 by January 9th

## Transcending Time and Space:

### The Virtual Choir

January 11th



What is a virtual choir? Like all choirs, it consists of singers organized by their voices — soprano, alto, tenor, and so on. But that is where the similarity ends. A virtual choir does not exist in time or space. In this talk, you will learn about the origin and construction of the virtual choir, and its profound impact on the essence of being human. A highlight is the performance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, joined by a virtual choir of more than 2000 voices.

## It's Good To Be King: The History of Divorce

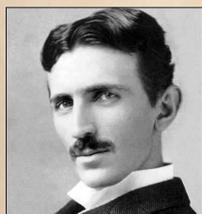
February 8th



A divorce was responsible for one of the greatest upheavals of Western civilization. This sometimes-whimsical presentation traces the history of divorce from ancient Egypt to modern times. The focus is on how divorce reflects society's values, while also being an agent of change.

## The Forgotten Genius: Nikola Tesla

March 8th



Tesla was one of the most prolific figures of the technology revolution of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Among his hundreds of patents was the invention of radio and radio remote control, the AC motor and generator, fluorescent lighting, transmission of electric power, the electric meter, the incandescent light bulb, electromagnetic propulsion, and

the AC/DC power converter. So why haven't you heard of him? This talk will answer that question and examine the eccentric genius that was Nikola Tesla.

## The Increase and Diffusion of Knowledge: The Smithsonian

April 12th



The Smithsonian is the largest collection of museums and research facilities in the world. It owes its existence to the bequest of the wealthy Englishman James Smithson. He left his substantial estate to the United States to be used for, "The increase and diffusion of knowledge." To this day, no one knows why he did this. From the perspective of its vision: "Shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world," this talk presents the Smithsonian's history, and includes a sampling of its greatest treasures.

## How Words Won World War II: The Navajo Code Talkers

May 10th



In the Pacific theater of World War II, the Japanese had broken every code used by the United States and its allies. In desperation to create an unbreakable code, the Marine Corps recruited Navajo Indians to develop an oral code using their native language to send and receive messages that the Japanese could not understand. The Navajo code was never broken. While credited with securing such critical victories as Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Guadalcanal, their existence remained classified until 1966. They did not receive the recognition they earned until 2001. This talk is their story.



## Dr. Michael Wallach

is a retired cell biologist. He holds a B.S. degree from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania/Wistar Institute. From an early age he was inspired by his grandfather, a true Renaissance man, to take the time to appreciate the world around us whether that be an earthworm in the park, or the mysteries of the night sky. That curiosity developed into what Michael describes as, "the joy of learning."

In particular, he has a keen interest in natural, cultural, and political history. Dr. Wallach has been a judge for high school forensics competitions sponsored by the National Speech and Debate Association. For the last several years he has been a resident in Parker Home's River Road long-term living community, where he developed a program of monthly presentations given at the nursing home, assisted living residence, and the adult day program. Dr. Wallach enjoys public speaking, but most importantly, instilling in others the joy of learning.