

Athenaeum Symposia Named in Honor of Frank Islam

Frank Islam is the chairman and CEO of FI Investment Group LLC (FIG), an investment firm he founded in 2007 after selling his information technology company, QSS Group, for \$300 million. A noted philanthropist, entrepreneur, and author, Islam generously provided a grant to the Montgomery College Foundation to support the Athenaeum Symposia, starting in 2013-2014. He has authored two books, *Renewing the American Dream* and *Working the Pivot Points: To Make America Work Again*, which will be released in October. He is a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post*, *Indian Express*, *Economics Times*, and *India Abroad*. In addition, he hosts a TV show, "Washington Current Review," on MHz Networks. A well-known philanthropist, Islam and his wife founded the Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation in 2007 to support educational, cultural, and artistic causes worldwide. Mr. Islam serves on numerous boards, committees, and panels, including those of educational institutions, such as the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business; American University; University of Technology, Malaysia; George Mason University School of Management; and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He also serves on the International Advisory Council of the United States Institute for Peace (USIP); the Department of Commerce Industry Trade Advisory Committee; and the Maryland Governor's International Advisory Committee. He holds a BS and MS in computer science from the University of Colorado. His website is FrankIslam.com.

"Community colleges are pivotal to the future of America, and Montgomery College, through opportunities like the Athenaeum Symposia, is playing a significant role in creating the next generation of leaders for America. Through our foundation grant, my wife, Debbie Driesman, and I recognize that education happens inside and outside the classroom and that for students to be successful in the workplace and in the competitive global market, they will need to be lifelong learners about international affairs, global peace, social issues, economics, the arts, and politics."

— Frank Islam

ATHENAEUM SYMPOSIA SPEAKERS

FALL 2011

Ira Berlin—Noted Historian and Author, US Slavery
Lise Bruneau and Marcus Kyd—Actors, *Hamlet*
Lilly Ledbetter—Social Justice Activist, Fair Pay Act

Spring 2012

Robert Blake, Assistant Secretary of State
Don Bliss, Mark Twain and US Politics
Patrick Beldio, Sculptor
Frank Islam, Entrepreneur of the Year
Norman Augustine, former CEO Lockheed Martin
DeRionne Pollard, President of Montgomery College

Fall 2012

David Smith, US Institute for Peace
Ambassador Rao, India
Jay Wilkinson, Author, *Bud Wilkinson's Letters*
Peter Edelman, Author, *So Rich, So Poor*
Fred Fisher, Sarajevo, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*
Stephen Gladson, Sarajevo, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*
William Chang, classical pianist

Spring 2013

Tony Cohen, Historian, Recreating American Slavery
Vaddey Ratner, Author, *In the Shadow of the Banyan*
Carolyn Cook, Activist, Equal Rights Amendment
Ira Shapiro, Author, *The Last Great Senate*
Lesley Francis, Granddaughter of Robert Frost

Fall 2013

Frank Islam, Author, *Renewing the American Dream*
Vic Fazio, Former California Congressman
Arun Gandhi, Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi
Exit 12 Dance Company, Focus on Iraq and Afghanistan
Maria Massi Dakake, Role of Muslim Women
William Chang, classical pianist

Spring 2014

Bill Press, Columnist, Political Talk-Show Host
Paul Monteiro, White House Interfaith Initiatives
Lisa Crooms, Dean, Howard University, Human Rights
Sheila Kay Adams, Appalachian Ballads, NEA Fellowship
Manjular Kumar, Director of *Noor*, *Smithsonian*
Charles Williams, Renowned Singer, *Porgy and Bess*

Fall 2014

Hercules Pinkney, Civil Rights Act, Former MC President
Reyna Grande, Author, *Distance Between Us*
Ambassador Rasool, South Africa
Clemantine Wamariya, From Rwandan Genocide to Yale
Julie-Hera Destefano, filmmaker, *Women of War*

Spring 2015

Hedrick Smith, Author, *Who Stole the American Dream?*
Jennifer Clement, Author, *Prayers for the Stolen*
Anya Schiffrin, Author, *Global Muckraking: 100 Years of Investigative Reporting From Around the World*
Jennifer Nordberg, Author, *The Underground Girls of Kabul*
Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, Author, *ISIS, War on Terror, and Muslim Community*
Brian McNeill, Renowned Scottish Musician

Fall 2015

Richard Reeves, Author, *Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese Internment in World War II*
Samantha Lakin, Fulbright Scholar, The Holocaust and Rwandan Genocide
Knight Kiplinger, Economic Journalist
Jennine Capo Crucet, Author, *Make Your Home Among Strangers*
Manal Omar, VP, U.S. Institute for Peace
William Chang, Classical Pianist

Spring 2016

Dr. Luis Branco, Co-founder of Zalgan Labs.
Azar Nafisi, Author, *Literature's Place in a Free and Enlightened Society*
Leonard Pitts, Pulitzer Prize for Commentary Columnist *Miami Herald*
Dervish and Cathy Jordan, Traditional Irish Music
Jennifer Lawless, Author, *Running From Office: Why Young People are Turned Off to Politics*
Victoria Chang, Poet, *Searing Poems: Ranging from Infidelity to Global Politics*

Montgomery College

THE FRANK ISLAM ATHENAEUM SYMPOSIA

Fall 2016 Speaker Series



Timely, stimulating topics delivered by today's leading experts in international affairs, the arts, politics, and economics

**Globe Hall, High Tech Building
BE, Bioscience Education Center
Germantown Campus**

Free and open to the public

Timely, stimulating topics delivered by today's leading experts in international affairs, the arts, politics, and economics



Thomas Frank
Author

Listen, Liberal: Whatever Happened to the Party of the People? (2016)

Thursday, September 15
7:00 PM Globe Hall—GT

Why has the middle class declined? Why do wages keep falling? Why does Wall Street get bailouts?—these are the questions Thomas Frank answers. In this critical election year, Frank calls the Democrats back to their historic goals—“the only way to reverse the rift between rich and poor in America.”

An American political analyst, Thomas Frank is the noted author of *Pity the Millionaire*, *The Wrecking Crew*, and *What's the Matter with Kansas?*



Nadia Hashimi,
Author

The Pearl That Broke Its Shell (2014)

Wednesday, September 28
12 Noon Globe Hall—GT

Nadia Hashimi paints a poignant picture of two generations of women in Afghanistan. The ancient custom of *bacha posh*, allowing a young woman to dress and be treated as a son until she is of marriageable age, plays a role in the lives of both women.

Nadia Hashimi is a pediatrician and a gifted writer. Her parents left Afghanistan in the 1970's; she was raised in the U.S. and visited Afghanistan in 2002 for the first time. Surrounded by aunts, uncles, and cousins, the Afghan culture has been an integral part of her daily life.



Marianne Schnall
Author/Editor

What Will It Take To Make a Woman President? (2013)

Wednesday, October 19
12 Noon Globe Hall—GT

Is 2016 the year in which a woman will be elected President of the U.S.? Find out from Maya Angelou, Gloria Steinem, Governor Mary Fallin, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Nicholas Kristof, and Soledad O'Brien what it will take to make a woman President. Author Schnall has collected over 40 interviews and essays in an attempt to discover what obstacles need to be overcome and what changes need to be made to elect a woman into the White House.

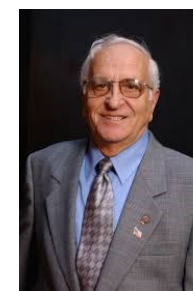
A graduate of Cornell University, Schnall is a widely published writer and interviewer. She is a featured contributor to NPR's radio show 51%: The Women's Perspective. She is also the author of *Daring to Be Ourselves: Influential Women Share Insights on Courage, Happiness, and Finding Your Own Voice*.



Ambassador Delano Lewis,
U.S. Ambassador to South Africa (1999-2001), Author
Race and Race Relations in America: Learning from South Africa
Tuesday, November 1
7PM Globe Hall—GT

As a product of segregated schools in Kansas City, Ambassador Lewis has dealt with the challenges of a society that discriminates based on race and color. Having been CEO of C & P Telephone and CEO of NPR and having been the U. S. Ambassador to South Africa during the Clinton administration, he is uniquely poised to offer his ideas on advancing race relations in the United States.

A graduate of Washburn Law School, Ambassador Lewis worked as an attorney in the U.S. Justice Department and was country director for the Peace Corps in Nigeria and Uganda. He has authored the inspirational *It All Begins with Self*.



Henry Greenbaum
Holocaust Survivor
2nd Annual Bella Mischinsky
Memorial Lecture
Wednesday, November 16
7PM BE 151-152

Henry was twelve when the Germans occupied his hometown in

Poland. Over the next six years, he was forced to live in a ghetto, to perform slave labor, and to live in concentration camps, and was sent on a death march. He was finally liberated by the American Army in 1945, but had lost his mother and five of his eight siblings. He emigrated from Poland to the United States and built a new life in Montgomery County, Maryland.

MC MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

70th Anniversary
1946-2016