**Dr. Oakes’ Events of Interest (Fall 2020)**

These are events that I am interested in attending—and I’d love some company! If you’d like to “join” me, maybe we could get together afterward and share our thoughts. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions! (juloakes@umbc.edu)

Tuesday, 10/20 (7:00 – 8:00 PM)

Harriet Washington, *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind* (Enoch Pratt Lecture Series)

“[Washington] takes apart the spurious notion of intelligence as an inherited trait, using copious data that instead point to a different cause of the reported African American – white IQ gap: environmental racism, a confluence of racism and other institutional factors that relegate marginalized communities to living and working near sites of toxic waste, pollution, and insufficient sanitation services. She investigates heavy metals, neurotoxins, deficient prenatal care, bad nutrition, and even pathogens as chief agents influencing intelligence to explain why communities of color are disproportionately affected—and what can be done to remedy this devastating problem.”

*RSVP required*: [Click the link here.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brown-lecture-series-harriet-washington-tickets-120025177537)

Thursday, 10/29 (6:00 – 7:00 PM)

*From Twilight into Sunshine: LGBTQ+ History in Maryland* (Enoch Pratt)

“Before language existed to identify persons whose gender expression and/or sexuality were non-conforming, 19th and early 20th century local newspapers offered tantalizing clues that all was not straight and narrow. A few decades later, the 1930s previewed the openness of recent times before giving way to a darker, more perilous era for LGBTQ+ people in the 1950s. After reviewing the twilight years, this program will look at the beginnings of the current movement toward LGBTQ+ visibility and rights.”

[Click here](https://calendar.prattlibrary.org/event/from_twilight_into_sunshine_lgbtq_history_in_maryland#about_stream) for the Zoom link.

Sunday, 11/1 (2:00 – 3:00 PM)

*A Virtual Celebration of Dia de los Muertos* (Smithsonian)

“Join museum folklorist Cynthia Vidaurri as she answers frequently asked questions about Day of the Dead. What is Día de los Muertos? How is it different from Halloween? What is an *ofrenda*? What is the meaning of the beautiful decorations? Vidaurri will illustrate the presentation with images collected over her years of research, as well as selected images from past Day of the Dead programs at the museum.”

[Click here](https://www.si.edu/events/online?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D148154331) to add to calendar.

Sunday, 11/8 (3:00 – 4:15 PM)

*Lives Recalled: Great Autobiographies and Memoirs – Julia Child* (Smithsonian)

“Documentary filmmaker and writer **Sara Lukinson** looks at remarkable lives recalled through richly told stories of joys, hopes, and the complexities of the human heart, including Julia Child, a daring young woman from Pasadena who to her surprise discovered her destiny in the foods and life of postwar Paris, reshaping the way Americans cook and eat. The program includes readings from Julia Child's My Life in France and archival film clips and stills.”

***Note:*** *There is a fee to attend this program, so contact Dr. Oakes if interested.*

Tuesday, 11/17 (6:45 – 8:15 PM)

*Exploring the Mysteries of World Heritage Sites: Chinese Oracle Bones* (Smithsonian)

“Historian **Justin M. Jacobs** offers the fascinating history of the accidental discovery of what was once thought to be “dragon bones,” revealing a new picture of Chinese civilization at the dawn of history—one filled with human sacrifice, communion with the supernatural world, and powerful women on the battlefield.”

***Note:*** *There is a fee to attend this program, so contact Dr. Oakes if interested.*