

FRIDAY:

6:00 pm

NICOLE PEREFEGE: The Language of Flowers

People give flowers for a variety of reasons: birthdays, anniversaries, funerals, theatrical performances, religious milestones, first dates, and holidays, to name a few. But did you ever wonder what you are saying when you choose a particular arrangement? This presentation explores the Victorian tradition of floriography, the Japanese tradition of hanakotoba, and a little bit about how flowers talk to each other (they do!)

BIO:

Nicole Perefegé is an attorney in West Chester, PA, a Trainer/Educator for the State of Delaware, and an adjunct professor at the University of Delaware. She has been a member of Delaware Mensa since 2005 and has been a testing proctor for almost a year. She shares her home with an English Mastiff and two cats and is quite adept at killing plants.

7:30 pm

JIM LEE: Palmistry: The Language of the Hand

Our hands have much to say about us. Through our hands, we hold those things which we consider important, we reach towards our aspirations, and we extend our love for others. Almost every action and most every thought is somehow expressed through our hands. After we do certain things enough times, our thoughts and actions become a part of the cellular memory of our bodies and our hands develop in ways that reflect our daily lives.

In this way, our hands are a gateway to our spirit. They tell us what we are about, and who we are. Cheirognomy, a study of the shape and the development of our hands, tells us about matters of character and personality. Cheirosophy, or the study of the lines of our hands, tells us about the paths that we have chosen for ourselves.

BIO:

James Lee has been practicing palmistry for most of his life. Following a “classical” approach to palmistry, James studies the development of the hands and their lines to understand how our personal energies can better interact with our environment to create a more balanced and successful life. James is native of Wilmington, Delaware.

9:00 pm

STEVEN CAPSUTO: “Translating” the SitCom: U.S. Remakes of British TV Series, From *All In The Family* to *The Office*”

Over the past 40 years, some of the United States' best known TV series were remakes of shows from the United Kingdom. How and why the networks changed the shows along the way reveals much about American expectations and attitudes toward television.

Such shows range from *All in the Family*, *Sanford and Son* and *Three's Company* in the 1970s to *Queer as Folk* and *The Office* in more recent years.

This one-hour talk is built around video clips of British series and their American clones — the successful remakes and the not-so-successful ones. It examines what changes the U.S. networks make, and what those decisions reveal about the differences between the two countries, their television industries, and the expectations that their TV viewers bring to the media.

BIO:

A linguist/translator by day and freelance writer/media historian on the side, Steven is probably best known for his book *Alternate Channels: The Uncensored Story of Gay and Lesbian Images on Radio and Television, 1930s to the Present*. The book was a semifinalist for a 2001 American Library Association Award and is widely used in university courses in the U.S. and abroad. Steven also contributed several articles to the books *Out in All Directions* (Warner Books, 1995) and the *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History in America* (Scribners, 2003). He is also a published literary and theatrical translator.

For more than a decade, Steven has traveled North America and Europe giving video-illustrated lectures about the

history of television, focusing on how it both reflects and influences society. The current presentation is based on his ongoing research into the international sale of television program formats.

SATURDAY:

10:00 am

ALLISON RAINVILLE: Gender-Stereotypical Language

Do men and woman talk differently? Or do we just THINK they do? This presentation will talk about what gender-stereotypical language is in English and present the results of two studies done with native and non-native speakers of English to determine whether or not non-native speakers recognize gender-stereotypical language in English.

BIO:

Allison Rainville has her Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and has worked with non-native speakers of English for most of the last decade. She speaks and understands several languages herself (including Norwegian and Bulgarian) and is interested in many subfields of linguistics, not the least of which is language and gender.

11:30 am

CINDI BASNER: Sign Language

This presentation will show you some signs, and discuss some of the common misconceptions of the deaf culture

BIO:

Cindi became interested in sign language while in grade school. Throughout her life, different deaf people have come into her life only furthering her desire to learn this beautiful language. She went to Delaware Tech to get her Associates in Sign Language Interpreting. While there, she got the opportunity to attend Gallaudet University for a summer program, furthering her understanding of the linguistics of American Sign Language.

2:00 pm

KARI GORAL: The Language of Runes

OK, so runes aren't technically a language. They are however, a fascinating insight into the lives, culture, and mythology of ancient Germanic peoples. More than just an alphabet, runes are the keys to secret knowledge. They are divinatory tools as well as communicative tools.

BIO:

Kari is not an expert, but a student of runes.

3:30 pm

ERIN McKEAN: How Words Mean

When you ask someone "what does X mean?" the typical response is "Go look it up!" But definitions only tell you WHAT words mean, not HOW they carry the meanings they do. Come hear about some interesting new ways we can learn to better understand the inner lives of words and how they work.

BIO:

Erin McKean likes to call herself a Dictionary Evangelist. She was most recently Chief Consulting Editor, American Dictionaries for Oxford University Press, and was the editor in chief of the *New Oxford American Dictionary*, 2e. She is the editor of [VERBATIM: The Language Quarterly](#), and the author of *Weird and Wonderful Words*, *More Weird and Wonderful Words*, *Totally Weird and Wonderful Words*, and *That's Amore* (also about words). Previously, she was the editorial manager for the Thorndike-Barnhart Dictionaries at ScottForesman, a Pearson company. She has served on the board of the Dictionary Society of North America and on the editorial board for its journal, *Dictionaries*, as well as on the editorial board for the journal of the American Dialect Society, *American Speech*. She also serves on the advisory boards of the Wikimedia Foundation and XRefer. She lives in Chicago, rants about dresses on her blog ([A Dress A Day](#)), and she's actually really bad at Scrabble (but surprisingly good at roller-skating).

5:00 pm

HOPE FREEMAN: Learning a Language: Tips and Techniques

Have you always wanted to learn a foreign language but didn't know where to start? Are you visiting a foreign country and want to just learn the basics? Do you have employees who speak another language with whom you would like to better communicate? If any of these describe you, come hear one language learner's advice on where to begin. We will discuss various methods, programs, and strategies for every type of learner!

BIO:

Hope Freeman began studying her first foreign language at the age of 11. In her 20's, she lived in Japan for a year, where she gained insight into learning a foreign language as an adult. Today she is a middle school Spanish teacher in Marlboro, NJ, and is pursuing her Master's in Spanish. In addition to Spanish, Hope has studied myriad other languages for travel and personal interest.

7:30 pm

YOU'VE BEEN SENTENCED! TOURNAMENT

If you haven't played this fun, party game, you're in for a treat. And you veterans already know how much fun it is! Using a unique word deck of pentagon shaped cards containing conjugations of funny words, famous names from throughout history, familiar places, and wild cards, players have to make grammatically correct and justifiable sentences. The creators of the game will be on hand to host this tournament.

BIO:

Donald W. McNeill:

Creator of the initial concept of the game You've been Sentenced! and founder of McNeill Designs. Don is a former top producer in commercial printing sales in the Northeast for over 20 years. A Graduate of West Virginia University (Political Science '86). He is the chief motivator, play maker and visionary for the McNeill Designs for Brighter Minds Team.

Martin Uniacke:

Is a toy and game industry sales professional for over 20 years and the #1 rep for TY Inc. during the Beanie Baby craze, bringing specialized knowledge of the toy, game, and gift industries. He assesses and develops the market strategies, structure, pricing, sales and distribution plans for new product rollouts. Martin oversees all sales and financial operations. A Graduate of the University of Delaware, (BS: Business Administration/Marketing '87.)

8:30 pm

POOLSIDE ENTERTAINMENT WITH TODD CHAPPELLE

Todd Chappelle is a singer-songwriter whose material ranges from the irreverent to the downright silly. After graduating from the University of Delaware in 1993, he spent much of the mid-1990's performing cover songs in bars, coffeehouses, and anywhere else in Delaware and SE Pennsylvania that would have him. He was also a member of the band LEGENDS, which was a 50's/60's/70's cover band that performed consistently throughout DE, PA and MD for several years before it disbanded in 2005. Left without an outlet for his music, Todd put together a repertoire of humorous songs that are meant for adult audiences without being TOO dirty or offensive. His 2007 CD "I'M FROM DELAWARE" was named the best comedy CD of 2007 by the listeners of 93.7 WSTW. The title track has been played on radio stations across Delaware and Maryland.