



## Outreach Lecture Options:

***Radio in Baltimore*** – A look back at the history of radio broadcasting in Baltimore from the 1920s through the 1960s and beyond. The program will cover milestones in the industry, as well as recalling many legendary radio personalities from the past. Mr. Ed Hawkins will deliver the presentation, which will include personal stories from his time at radio station WITH.

***The Needles Trades*** – A study of the history of the garment industry in Baltimore starting with its beginnings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Tales about hats, umbrellas and men’s suits will be sewn together in the talk. There will also be discussion of the immigrants who worked in these sweatshops and the labor unions they eventually formed. Sonneborn, Greif, Polan Katz, Beehler, and Joseph A. Bank are just some of the companies that will be mentioned.

***Baltimore Enters the Industrial Age: The 19<sup>th</sup> century, Century of Change*** – Few of us have thought about the Industrial revolution since middle school but it was at the heart of Baltimore becoming a center for commerce, business and industry. When the 19th century opened, a few villages destined to become Baltimore were modest centers of trade. Dependent on Europe for both trade and financing, these villages left behind, slowly at first, their agrarian roots as the new century matured. Immigrants flowed in, village centers merged and Baltimore became an important business and industry center. Ores, coal, wheat, cotton and of course, in the midst of it all, the humble oyster became king. Baltimore was “oyster town” with its hundred packing-houses lining the waterfront. Shipbuilding, shipping companies, then railroads each had and have a continuing role in making Baltimore an important center for commerce.

***Baltimore, The War Years: A City and its Citizens on the Homefront*** – During World War II, Baltimore, its citizens and the industries that employed them were truly transformed. In exploring together this dynamic period in our nation’s and community’s history, focus is first directed at the “Big Three” war industries: steel, ships and aircraft. Just three manufacturing forces employed locally well over 100,000 people, won countless production awards and shifted forever the opinions of who could be employed to do which jobs. And the “Big Three” were just the beginning, as the businesses and industries that supported and assisted them numbered in the hundreds. From a west side metal working business that cast propellers for Liberty Ships to an east side business making thousands of miles of wiring and cables, Baltimore excelled in doing its part in the war effort. Of course, an all-consuming war effort also meant change to the social fabric of the city, a fabric stressed and occasionally torn, as gender and racial barriers collapsed under the need for every citizen to make as great a contribution as his or her individual abilities made possible.

***Shipbuilding On the Patapsco: 300 years of Baltimoreans and Their Ships*** – The story of shipbuilding in Baltimore, the workers who toiled there, their many workplaces, the ships they built, and the lives of just a few prominent individuals. Shipbuilding in Baltimore enjoys a long and rich history. From the earliest days of a settlement to the closing of the last yard - at

Sparrows Point - in the late 20th century, Baltimoreans toiled in dozens of locations building some of the finest vessels ever constructed. From wood to steel, sail then steam, local yards built thousands of ships. Some names we know: The Baltimore Clipper and Liberty Ships - more built in Baltimore than anywhere else. But thousands of other ships not as well known - fleets of small craft, utility tasked ships and the building of a "replacement" refrigerated cargo fleet are just a few of the ship stories that dominated the city for hundreds of years.

**The Story of the Port of Baltimore** – Were it not for the Port, there may have never been a Baltimore, or a Baltimore that any of today's citizens would recognize. The Port is, was and has always been a source of prosperity for "The Queen City of the Patapsco". But the story of the port is more than the long touted "Location, location, location" mantra - it is a story of the work and works of thousands of people written over hundreds of years. The city's natural harbor lingered early until one man took a chance and exported a cash crop - and not the one you are thinking of. With every step forward there seemed to come a new challenge: competition from canals, the building of railroads, the upheaval of a Civil War and a dozen more problems and changes, each an obstacle to be overcome. The people, the ships, the overnight steamers of the Old Bay Line - all of these and more have led us to today's Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore: cargoes coming and going in massive numbers. The story of the port is a truly fascinating one, a story told in this dramatic session.

**Baltimore in the Roaring Twenties: The Emergence of a Modern Industrial City** – In an era of change, few cities in the 1920's changed more than Baltimore. From a mercantile, trading based community, Baltimore became an industrial powerhouse. While the population enjoyed the amenities of a post-world war modern life, businesses were finding a nearly perfect climate - social, political, labor force, geographic - to locate operations in Baltimore. Proctor and Gamble, Western Electric, Glenn L Martin were just three of many businesses that made major industrial commitments to the city and region. People were tuning into radios, driving their new automobiles, visiting vaudeville and motion picture theaters and watching air operations at Colgate field from the Riverside Electric Park. To do this they donned the latest fashions and travelled on the cars of the United Railways Company to school, entertainment or work from of the thousands of row houses built each year, or joined the exodus to suburbia at Roland Park or points beyond. Baltimore: a dynamic, growing city in a time when throwing off convention was part of the new social fabric.

**Baltimore, Mid-Century: People, Places, Priorities in the 1950's** – A decade of dramatic change: the 1950's in Baltimore largely reflected the changes occurring nationwide, many of them with a local aspect. But more than the changing national scene, Baltimore rebuilt, restored, revised and occasionally endured a series of changes that forever changed the fabric of the city.

This unexpectedly dynamic decade made lasting, fundamental changes to the way people lived, where they lived, how they moved in and around their environment and to many of the places they gained employment. From the early "crisis" in absorbing returning veterans and the families then being created to the way those new families would seek entertainment and recreation, Baltimore would be a far different place in 1959 than it was in 1950. Automobiles and the highways they rode on took over. The "Red Scare" went local, labor strikes begat unintended consequences while hula hoops, poodle skirts and fast food became modern trends.

This was a decade with fun, fancy and a few tragedies. Baltimore in the 1950's makes of survey of many the parts and pieces of a mid-20th century decade. This was indeed a

decade many recall but few truly realize how much of Baltimore's 21st Century had roots in those years.

**A Mill on the Patapsco: The Rise, Operation and Decline of the Sparrows Point Steel Mill**

– Today the Bethlehem Steel Sparrows Point Steel Mill is but a memory, remembered by many with a degree of fondness. There is a history of a place long known as “The Point”, its people, its community, the company that employed them, and the impacts that all of this had over time. This program is a survey of the great, the good, the not so good; the happy and the sad; the successes and failures of a business that dominated a region and many thousands of lives for over a hundred years.

From the earliest days of steel making, Sparrows Point changed iron ore, lime and coal into pig iron, then steel. World War II brought the mill to new heights but was followed by an overconfidence in how “business as usual” might fare in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was a rough landing – as figurative (and occasionally literal) bills came due from many ills. The days of steel making at The Point are over, new opportunities are arising, but the steel story is important and deserves to be and here is heard.