



PARKER

Hidden History Talks

Presented by Dr. Michael Wallach

September 14th
The Day the World Ended

October 12th
Where Men Become Gods

November 16th
Decoding the Heavens

December 14th
Searching for Santa Claus



Second Wednesdays of the month
1:00-2:00 pm



PARKER
at the Pavilion

443 River Road • Highland Park
Pavilion Theater

Attendance is FREE but space is limited

Sign up for the entire series

Registration Required

Contact Kailin Bouse at
kbouse@feparker.net or

732-565-2496 by September 1st

The Day the World Ended

September 14th

On August 24, 79 A.D., Pompeii, along with several other Roman cities, was destroyed by the eruption of Mount



Vesuvius. The city was buried under more than 16 feet of volcanic debris. So complete was the destruction that in

just a few years no one could remember its exact location. In this talk you will learn about daily life in ancient Pompeii, the events on the day its world literally ended, and the current archaeological and conservation efforts of this UNESCO world heritage site.

Where Men Become Gods

October 12th



In the 13th or 14th century the Aztecs of central Mexico discovered the ruins of a city so impressive that they named it “Teotihuacán” (*Where Men Become Gods*). It

is believed that Teotihuacán, a UNESCO world heritage site, was founded in 400 B.C. and abandoned somewhere in the 8th century A.D. At its peak it was home to as many as 200,000 inhabitants. Little is known about the Teotihuacán people, and to this day they remain an anthropological mystery. This talk will discuss the history and archaeology of Teotihuacán, including a remarkable discovery in 2003 that is still being excavated.



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.”

Decoding the Heavens

November 16th

In 1901 commercial sponge divers discovered the wreck of a Roman merchant ship off the coast of the Greek island



of Antikythera. Among the hundreds of items recovered were fragments of

what appeared to be some kind of a mechanical device. The 82 fragments of what is now called the Antikythera Mechanism found their way to the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. It remained essentially unstudied until 1974. It was not until high tech studies were conducted in 2008 that its purpose and function were finally understood. This talk will discuss the amazing 2100-year-old machine, including the most recent study that finally deciphered the extensive inscriptions on the world’s first analog computer.

Searching for Santa Claus

December 14th



This talk begins with a simple question, do you believe in Santa Claus? After discussing the history of Santa Claus from

St. Nicholas to the current day, it will present the evidence that there really is a Santa Claus.

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.