

## History of Vassar Brothers Institute

John Guy Vassar and Matthew Vassar Jr., nephews of Matthew Vassar who founded Vassar College, recognized the need for an organization that would continue three educational societies formed during the 1870's to discuss science, literature and art. These societies merged in 1881 to form the Vassar Brothers Institute of which we are members today.

The Vassars were civic minded and generous. They built a Victorian multi-purpose building on Vassar Street in Poughkeepsie (on the site of their former brewery) and presented it to our trustees on November 28, 1882. It contained an active museum, library, arts studio and an auditorium seating 215 people.

Three sections of the Institute sponsored lectures, worked with farmers to increase agricultural knowledge, and offered popular courses in arts, civics and language. Each year since 1882 a series of lectures has been held, sometimes with as many as 19 programs. Several were given by Vassar College professors and other well-known public figures. Following World War I, public schools, given seed money from our endowment, took over many of these programs.

As our membership increased, we outgrew the original building on Vassar Street. It was sold in 1977 and now the Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center uses it to enhance its programs in the community. From 1946 to 2017, we presented personally narrated Travel and Adventure Films in the Poughkeepsie High School. "Science in Your Life" lectures were started in 1983 and are presently held at Our Lady of Lourdes High School Auditorium. Not only do funds from our endowment subsidize the science lectures, they also support a variety of programs in the community that relate to the Vassar's objectives to promote education and useful knowledge in the areas of Science, Literature and Art.

## VASSAR BROTHERS INSTITUTE OFFICERS 2017-2018

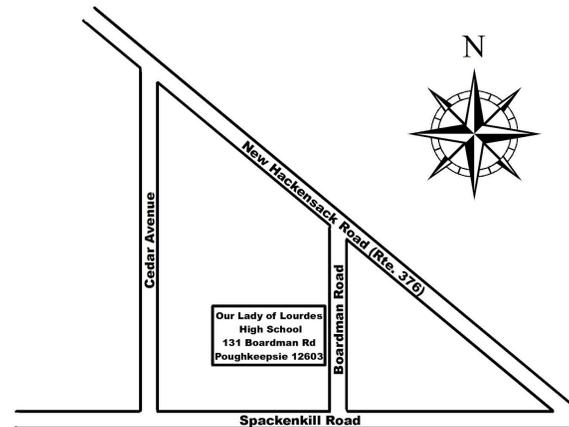
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[www.VassarBrothersInstitute.org](http://www.VassarBrothersInstitute.org)

**Our Lady of Lourdes High School**  
**131 Boardman Road**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**  
Parking on south side of building



For information call: 845-473-0940

# SCIENCE IN YOUR LIFE 2018



[VassarBrothersInstitute.org](http://VassarBrothersInstitute.org)

Programs whose purpose is to bring together scientists and the lay public in the exploration of topics of general interest and concern.

**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
No Reservations Required

The year 2018 series of three programs  
February 21, February 28, and March 7  
7:30 to 9:15 p.m.  
(doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

**Our Lady of Lourdes High  
School  
Auditorium**

Sponsored by:





Presents

# SCIENCE IN YOUR LIFE

Admission is free.  
No reservations required.

**Our Lady of Lourdes  
High School Auditorium  
7:30 - 9:15 PM**

**Wednesday, February 21, 2018**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

**7:30 PM “MUSIC BY ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL PHILHARMONIA** (a 45 student string orchestra conducted by Jonathan Handman).

**8:15 PM “THE WORLD OF GEMOLOGY: HISTORY AND VALUE OF PRECIOUS GEMSTONES” Speaker: Bradford Walker Shreve, Crump & Low of Greenwich, CT**

Precious gemstones have captured the imagination for centuries, with the allure, value and often mystery. Mr. Walker will dazzle us with stories about Sapphires, Rubies and Emeralds. Where are they found and why are some regions more desirable than the others? What contributes to their color and other properties? Additionally, he will examine some of the most notable gems owned by monarchs, celebrities and American royalty, past and present.

Brad Walker is a fourth-generation jeweler and executive vice-president of Shreve Crump and Low, one of America’s oldest institutions. He received his Graduate Gemology degree prior to graduating from Babson College with a BA in Business. Shreve Crump and Low was first opened in 1796 just 20 years after the Declaration of Independence.

**7:30 PM MUSIC BY ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ MACHINE** (Conducted by Rich Guillen)

**8:15PM “USING SHADOWS TO SHED NEW LIGHT” Speaker: Dr. James L. Green NASA Headquarters Washington, DC**

Current estimates are that over 150 million Americans viewed the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017 with another 60 million watching it electronically from TV or the internet. It’s amazing to think that we are still using this opportunity to do new and exciting science even though eclipses are a regular occurrence. Eclipses are the “obscuring of the light from one celestial body by passage of another between it and the observer”. We use nearly the same definition for describing occultations and transits. In reality, the phenomena of eclipses, occultations and transits that create shadows has been a critical technique to do amazing things from finding new rings at Saturn to new planets orbiting other far away stars. This is a brief story of how we continue to use shadow techniques to uncover new science with spectacular examples that have occurred the last year.

Dr. James Green became the Director of the Planetary Science Division at NASA Headquarters in 2006. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Iowa. He has written over 115 scientific articles.

**7:30 PM MUSIC BY VIVACE ORCHESTRA** (30 person string orchestra conducted by Jonathan Handman)

**8:15PM “CONQUERING LYME DISEASE - SOLUTIONS THROUGH SCIENCE” Speaker: Brian Fallon, MD Columbia University Medical Center New York, NY**

Dr. Brian Fallon, director of the Lyme & Tick-borne Diseases Research Center at Columbia University Medical Center, will present a message of hope. He will review recent scientific advances in diagnosis, treatment and prevention that will help to stem the tide of this most challenging disease. While the controversies and uncertainties associated with Lyme Disease are well known, less well known are the great strides being made by contemporary science that are leading to remarkable new approaches to conquer this disease.

Dr. Fallon received his BA and M.Ed. from Harvard University. He has been associated with Columbia University since 1979 where he obtained a MPH in epidemiology and a MD. He co-authored a book “Conquering Lyme Disease: Science Bridges the Great Divide” with Jennifer Sotsky, MD which was published by Columbia University Press in December 2017.