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The Mariners' Evening Lecture Series Returns This Fall

NEWPORT NEWS, Va – The Mariners' Museum and Park continues its compelling Evening Lecture Series this fall with presentations from two esteemed figures. The lectures will take place on October 17 and November 14 at 7 p.m. For the first time, a member of The Mariners' Team has been selected as a speaker.

October 17, 2024

[Precious Cargo: The Amazing Collection at The Mariners' Museum](#)

Lyles Forbes, Vice President of Collections and Chief Curator at The Mariners'

The Mariners' Heritage Collection of 35,000 objects is one of the most regarded in the United States, and worldwide. Forbes will give guests an in-depth view of the Museum's Collection from his recent appearance at the International Congress of Maritime Museums in the Netherlands. This international look, combined with a personal perspective from his 24 years of work with the Collection, sets the stage for an exploration of what the future holds for access to the Collection. Gallery interpretation by the Mariners' Curatorial Team will accompany this lecture.

Forbes' tenure began as the Curator of Small Craft. After helping create the International Small Craft Center, Forbes broadened his scope to focus on other areas of the Collection, including fine arts. Before working at Mariners' he worked at The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts for 10 years and served two years as an intern at the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland. Forbes has spent the last eight years helping guide The Mariners' Museum in a significant turnaround toward a model of stewardship and engagement.

November 14, 2024

[Left for Dead](#)

Eric Jay Dolin, bestselling and award-winning author

In *Left for Dead*, Eric Jay Dolin tells the true story of a wild and fateful encounter between an American sealing vessel, a shipwrecked British brig, and a British warship in the Falkland archipelago during the War of 1812. Fraught with misunderstandings and mistrust, the incident left three British sailors and two Americans, including the captain of the sealer, Charles H. Barnard, abandoned in the barren, windswept, and inhospitable Falklands for a year and a half. With deft narrative skill and unequaled knowledge of the very pith of seafaring life, Dolin describes in vivid and harrowing detail the increasingly desperate existence of the castaways during their 18-month ordeal — an all-too-common fate in the Great Age of Sail. *Left for Dead* shows individuals in wartime under great duress acting both nobly and atrociously. Specially selected objects from The Mariners' Collection will be on display in the Lower Lobby from 6 – 6:45 p.m.

Eric Jay Dolin is the author of 16 books, including *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America*, which was chosen as one of the best nonfiction books of 2007 by the Los Angeles Times and the Boston Globe, and also won the 2007 John Lyman Award for U.S. Maritime History. His most recent book before *Left for Dead* is *Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution*, which was awarded the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award and the Samuel Eliot Morison Book Award for Naval Literature. Before *Rebels* came *A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America's Hurricanes*, which was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize and was chosen as one of the 50 notable books of non-fiction of the year by The Washington Post and as one of the Best Science & Technology Books of 2020 by the Library Journal and Booklist. Dolin lives in Marblehead, Massachusetts. For more information, please visit www.ericjaydolin.com.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for guests attending each lecture in person. Attendees are welcome to send comments or questions that will be answered at the end of each presentation. A copy of Dolin's *Left for Dead* may be purchased in the Mariners' Shop, and a book signing will follow his lecture. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.MarinersMuseum.org/series/evening-lecture-series/>.

The Evening Lecture Series is sponsored in part by The Tom & Ann Hunnicutt Lecture Fund and York County Arts Commission. The Mariners' welcomes guests virtually and in person to each event. Media interested in interviewing any of the scheduled lecturers should contact Senior Director of Advancement Sabrina Jones, at sjones@MarinersMuseum.org.

The Mariners' Museum and Park connects people to the world's waters because through the water – through our shared maritime heritage – we are connected to one another. The organization is an educational, private 501(c)(3) nonprofit institution accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and preserves and interprets maritime history through an international collection of ship models, figureheads, paintings, and other maritime artifacts. The Mariners' Museum is home to the USS *Monitor* Center, and is surrounded by the 550-acre Mariners' Park, the largest privately owned and maintained park that is free and open to the public in North America. The Mariners' Museum Library is the largest maritime library in the Western hemisphere. Because of the Museum's world-class collection and its reputation for high-level exhibits and programs, in 1998, the U.S. Congress designated The Mariners'

Museum as one of only two maritime museums that comprise America's National Maritime Museum. The Museum galleries are open to the general public with \$1 admission, and the Mariners' team will continue to offer FREE virtual programs for those who prefer to engage online with us or through our social media platforms and blog posts. The Mariners' Park and Noland Trail is open for daily use. For additional information, visit MarinersMuseum.org, call (757) 596-2222 or write to The Mariners' Museum, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

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