

Philosophical P Society of W Washington

Lectures at the Philosophical Society of Washington are selected to appeal to those with a general interest in science and do not require a specialized knowledge of the subject. They always contain information that is current, explanations that are understandable and often a few controversial issues that challenge the critical listener. Although concentrated on the physical sciences the series is designed to include a wide range of disciplines.

Meetings are held in the John Wesley Powell Auditorium of the Cosmos Club, located at 2170 Florida Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The Auditorium is within walking distance of the Dupont Circle Metro stop (Q Street exit), the Connecticut Avenue bus routes (L2, L4), and the Massachusetts Avenue bus routes (N2, N4).

For more info. or to join:
membership@philsoc.org

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

You will be notified of meetings by email.

Check here if you want postal notices:

Occupation _____

Affiliation _____

Education _____

Are you a student? Yes

Grad. Year _____

Institution _____

After filling in the application, hand it to an officer at a meeting or mail to:

**PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF
WASHINGTON - MEMBERSHIP
c/o COSMOS CLUB
2121 MASSACHUSETTS AVE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20008**

If your application is accepted, you will be billed \$75 for annual dues (\$35 if a student). If you are elected to membership in the Spring, dues are \$35 for the remainder of the year (\$15 student). Life membership is available for \$650. Dues-paid members are notified of meetings and have the opportunity to attend pre-meeting dinners with the speakers.

Philosophical P Society of W Washington

**The Oldest Scientific
Society of Washington**

Founded 1871

<http://www.philsoc.org>

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Some of Our Speakers:

The Origin of Size

John Marburger

Presidential Science Advisor

September 27, 2002

Oceans and Human Health: A Symbiotic Relationship between People and the Sea

Rita R. Colwell

Former Director, NSF

May 28, 2004

Time, Einstein, and the Coolest Stuff in the Universe

William Phillips

Nobel Laureate

May 13, 2005

The Very First Light: The True Inside Story of the Scientific Journey Back to the Dawn of the Universe

John Mather

Nobel Laureate

May 11, 2007

Our Microbial Partners and Their Roles in Health and Disease

Claire Fraser-Liggett

*Director, Institute for Genome
Sciences, UMD*

May 1, 2009

Purpose

The Philosophical Society of Washington invites speakers from the large, diverse scientific community in the Washington area to make presentations about their work. The society attracts members who would like to be aware of the frontiers of diverse intellectual disciplines.

Meetings are generally held every other Friday from October to May at the Cosmos Club. Following the scheduled program, members are invited to a reception with refreshments and to enjoy the opportunity to discuss the presentation with the speaker and with other members.

History

The Society was founded as an association of individuals interested in science and grew out of meetings that were held Saturday afternoons in the middle of the nineteenth century at the home of Joseph Henry, an early researcher in magnetism and the discoverer of electromagnetic induction.

From these informal meetings, The Philosophical Society of Washington was founded on March 13, 1871. The aims of the Society are the promotion of science, the advancement of learning, and the free exchange of views on scientific subjects among its members. During the first years of the Society the leading themes were astronomy, geography, physics, and biology. Geology, meteorology, and anthropology gained the floor of the Society during these beginnings owing to the rapid growth of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Weather Bureau (now part of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and the Bureau of Ethnology (of the Smithsonian Institution).

The nature of the meetings changed when more specialized scientific societies sprang from the Philosophical Society. The Anthropological Society was organized in 1879, the Biological Society in 1880, and the Chemical Society in 1884. The Philosophical Society became more closely identified with the physical and mathematical sciences, geophysics, and biophysics, although it has never taken the character of a specialized society.

From 1878 to 1887 meetings were held in the library of the Surgeons General's Office in Ford's Theater (converted into Government office space some time after President Lincoln was assassinated there). Since March 26, 1887, the date of the 300th meeting of the Society, the regular meeting place has been the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, now called the John Wesley Powell Auditorium.

In 1931 the society inaugurated the annual Joseph Henry Lectures in honor of its first president. The society now provides a forum for the discussion of a variety of current scientific subjects.

Today

Today, the Philosophical Society of Washington follows the traditions and purpose set by Joseph Henry in 1871, continuing to discuss "all subjects of interest to intelligent persons." Membership in the society is open to all persons who are interested in the aims of the society.

The Philosophical Society of Washington remains an all-volunteer 501(c)3 charitable organization.

<http://www.philsoc.org>