

# SH speaker series to highlight issues

## Nonprofit organization lays out its schedule through September

By HP STAFF

SOUTH HAVEN — The Speakers Series of South Haven has announced an expanded schedule of presentations for 2017.

The presentation will maintain a focus on “Issues, Innovations and Ideas Shaping Our Lives,” the organization stated in a press release. Topics of concern to residents of Southwest Michigan will be addressed.

“Entering our third year, we are pleased with the ongoing growth of the Speakers Series and look forward to bringing six issues-focused presentations to our audience in 2017,” series President Mark Odland said.

The series will kickoff March 14 with “The Court in the Crosshairs” when David Ryden, Hope College professor of political science, addresses the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court vacancy, and what a new justice will mean for affirmative action, abortion, religious liberty, transgender rights, immigration, the reach of executive authority, and several other hotly contested constitutional debates.

The series will continue March 30 when Jean Norris, a specialist in higher education, addresses the challenges families face in making higher education decisions, specifically how to find the right fit between students, programs and institutions.

Jack Lessenberry, noted Michigan journalist and public radio commentator, will draw upon more than 40 years’ experience watching the workings of Michigan government. He will explore why Michigan is such a great place to live and how we can make it even better in the future. His presentation will be on May 4.

Bing Goei, director of the Office of New Americans for Michigan, will speak to immigration issues on June 15. He will share his personal journey as an immigrant



RYDEN



NORRIS



LESSENBERRY



GOEI



MOOSA



CANUL

and why he believes immigration is so important to the country’s future.

Ebrahim Moosa is a professor of Islamic Studies in the International Peace Program at the University of Notre Dame and is considered one of the most influential Muslims in the world. He will address “Reform in Today’s Muslim World” Aug. 31.

The series will conclude Sept. 28 when Yvonne Canul, superintendent of Lansing schools and Michigan superintendent of the year in 2015, will present her perspective of what really works in education and why we should care.

All presentations will be at 7:30 p.m. at Lake Michigan College in South Haven, with a wine and cheese reception prior at 6:45 p.m. Admission is \$10. Students are admitted free.

The Speakers Series of South Haven is a nonprofit organization led by an all-volunteer board of directors. Information about the Speakers Series of South Haven can be found at [www.southhavenspeakersseries.org](http://www.southhavenspeakersseries.org), or on the organization’s Facebook page.