



# Explore *Our World* at the Sandcastle in 2024

Established in 2008 under the auspices of the Kiawah Island Community Association (KICA), Our World is an educational outreach program for Kiawah property owners, which invites speakers with expert knowledge of local, national and global issues of significance. Committee members include KICA members who partner with Sandcastle staff to provide several programs each month on Thursdays from October through April.

*Each program takes place at 3 p.m. at the Sandcastle. To register for programs, visit the KICA website calendar at [kica.us/events](http://kica.us/events). Registration will be available on individual event listings. Due to unforeseen circumstances, programs may be cancelled or rescheduled. Contact the Sandcastle at [sandcastle@kica.us](mailto:sandcastle@kica.us) or 843-768-3875 with any questions.*

## **Jan. 11 – The St. John’s Fire District Protects Our Island**

The firefighters and trucks of the St. John’s Fire District play one of the most important roles in the overall safety and security of Kiawah. Ryan Kunitzer, the Fire Chief of the St. John’s Fire District, has spent much of his career on Kiawah, and he seeks to answer an important question: how can the department best serve the community?

## **Jan. 25 - Helicopters and Cutters: The US Coast Guard in the Lowcountry**

The US Coast Guard stations in Charleston and along the coast have a critical role in protecting life and property in the Lowcountry. Lt. Tyler Pfenninger wants to share the Coast Guard’s fascinating story, including its history, mission and operations.

## **Feb. 1 – The Charleston Post and Courier: What’s Next for the Newspaper?**

In the midst of turbulent change in the local and national media world, editor-in-chief Autumn Phillips will discuss what’s ahead for our local paper, including two new significant growth opportunities for the newspaper: philanthropic fundraising and a new feature on international trips.



## **Feb. 22 – Sharks: Separating Facts From Myths**

Marine biologist and shark expert Byran Frazier wants to put the fears about sharks to rest. In his work at the SC Department of Natural Resources, he is one of the foremost shark researchers in the country. He worries about the misinformation swirling around sharks, and will share the latest research on the sharks that may or may not be swimming near our beaches.

## **Feb. 29 – Some Clues About Those Crossword Puzzles**

Go behind the scenes with the puzzle guru: Derrick Niederman is an author, mathematician, game designer, and national squash champion. Despite these accomplishments and his day job as a professor of math at the College of Charleston, he's also a regular contributor to the New York Times crossword puzzle page as a puzzle designer.

## **March 7 – Latest Research on Brain Changes and Alzheimer's**

Dr. Anya Benitez is a neuropsychologist at the Medical University of South Carolina. She specializes in the diseases of aging and is a leading researcher on the early detection of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease. Her laboratory has made significant advances in the use of observational studies and clinical trials to identify possible causes of cognitive problems in an effort to develop new treatment strategies.

## **March 28 – The Charleston Symphony Orchestra: Cultural Pillar of the Community**

Michael Smith did not plan to be a music executive. His dream was always to play his trumpet in the best orchestra possible, which he did for many years. In 2013, he saw a need that led him to become Executive Director of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. From his post, he's spearheading new outreach and resulting sound financial footing for this cultural pillar of the community.

## **April 11 – Stopping Hitler's Atomic Bomb**

By popular request, Timothy Boyce is returning to Our World. A remarkable storyteller, he has researched many of the significant players and events which form the history of World War II, especially in neutral Norway. He will be sharing a new story of Germany's efforts to build an atomic bomb, part of the history discussed in the recent Oppenheimer movie.

## **April 25 – Uprising and Wars in Africa: Why We Should Care**

Dr. Christopher Day is the director of African Studies at the College of Charleston. He has spent a large part of his career in Africa, working with African humanitarian groups. The violence in Africa is often overlooked on the world stage but the increasing spread of war and the growing number of refugees is having a significant effect on the continent and the rest of the world.

