



DELaWARE
HUMANITIES

Speakers Catalog

2020

Hosting a Speakers Program

Thank you for your interest in our Speakers Program! Be sure to follow the steps below to successfully host a Delaware Humanities Speakers event.

STEP 1: Decide on a program.

Select a program that you have **NOT** already hosted within the last 6 months.

Contact the speaker directly to arrange a time and date that works with everyone's schedule.

[**Note:** If your event includes a meal, meeting, etc. then the start time is when the Speaker begins. Speakers are not required or expected to participate in additional events.]

Clarify any audio/visual needs with the Speaker.

STEP 2: Complete the online request form.

Visit dehumanities.org and click 'LOG-IN' in the bottom right-hand corner to access our online applications.

Submission of the online request form does **NOT** guarantee approval. Requests made more than 3 months in advance will take longer for approval.

STEP 3: Sign the Grant Agreement & send payment.

After your application has been approved, you will have **7 days** to sign the **Grant Agreement**. This agreement also serves as your invoice.

Mail your check payment to Delaware Humanities:
100 W. 10th St, Suite 509, Wilmington, DE 19801

Print out the audience evaluations found in #8 of the Grant Agreement. They can also be found on our website at dehumanities.org/speakers

Double-check event details with the Speaker. If there are any changes to the program after you have submitted the Grant Agreement, notify Delaware Humanities ASAP.

STEP 4: Have a great event!

Distribute the **audience evaluations** before the program starts. When introducing the Speaker, indicate that the program is administered through Delaware Humanities.

At the end, collect the evaluation forms from your audience.

STEP 5: Submit the online evaluation form.

Log back into your account and complete the **Program Coordinator Evaluation** form within 7 days of the event.

During this step you can attach scans of the audience evaluations, **OR** you can mail them to us.

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NOTE:

If you are looking for programs relating to specific topics, please refer to this key. Programs are identified using the following symbols:

- ★ The African-American Experience
- ♀ Women and/or Suffrage

*Some program descriptions have been edited for length. For full descriptions of all programs, please visit our website at **dehumanities.org**.*

THE ARTS

ART & ARCHITECTURE

Art as Prevention

Eunice LaFate | arteun@aol.com | (302) 658-4547

NOT for K-12 Schools

Having spent over 30 years in educating youth and incorporating the arts in the learning process, folk artist Eunice LaFate brings wide-ranging experience to this topic. The presentation will begin with a viewing of “Art As Prevention,” a short film produced by LaFate. The documentary is based on her real-life experience using the arts to engage inner city at-risk youth, the results of which was manifested in their graduation from college. After viewing the documentary, the audience will participate in an art activity focused on race-relations. LaFate’s nationally recognized painting “The Melting Pot vs. The Salad Bowl,” will be the focus of engaging participants in viewing the subject of race-relations. Participants will be encouraged to create an art piece portraying their view of positive race.

Folk Art & Culture

Eunice LaFate | arteun@aol.com | (302) 658-4547

NOT for K-12 Schools

Folk art is the art produced by self-taught people. Every culture has its share of folk artists, yet art historians often deny folk art its rightful place alongside fine art. Ms. LaFate, a Jamaican born, prize-winning folk artist, addresses this issue and explores the concepts of folk art and culture. Audience members will have the opportunity to create their own folk art!

Muriel Draper and the Art of the Salon: Embracing Caricature

Olivia Armandroff | oarmandr@udel.edu | (808) 936-0360

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

This presentation examines the illustrated correspondence between Muriel Draper, an early-twentieth century salon hostess, and her artist friend, Mark Tobey, who is best known today for inspiring Jackson Pollock’s abstract expressionist style. It asks questions about how caricature—which commonly functions in a political environment as a method of critique—can be inspired by positive values of familiarity and affection. It also addresses an example of how a woman played an important role as a cultural influencer and tastemaker in the New York art world during a time when men still dominated official positions as critics, historians, and museum administrators.

THE ARTS

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

A Shakespeare Celebration

Lloyd King | lloydeking@comcast.net | (302) 834-7781

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

In this presentation, we celebrate the exceptional poet, dramatist, actor, playwright, and incredible intellect of a man called Shakespeare. He was the first writer to create personality, character, and most of what we now think of as “human traits.” In addition to coining thousands of words in the English language, he also created the words and concepts that modern man still uses to define himself. Shakespeare is probably the greatest writer in English or any other language. Amazingly, he produced thirty-seven plays that are still performed on stages worldwide. Four hundred years has not diminished his acceptance in the cultures of the world. Let’s create an international holiday to celebrate his contributions to all humans—past and present!

A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare: 1599

Lloyd King | lloydeking@comcast.net | (302) 834-7781

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

The year Shakespeare changed everything about his craft. He moved the theatre south of the Thames and his plays to another intellectual level. This year produced four immortal plays, moving him from the great playwright of the 16th century to the greatest of all time.

Beyond Journaling: How Reflective Writing Can Reduce Stress

Joan DeFattore | jdel@udel.edu | (302) 737-7124

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

Whether you’ve been keeping a journal for years or are just becoming interested in reflective writing, this program will help you learn new research-based techniques for using writing to relieve stress and improve the quality of life. No need to share what you write, unless you want to — this is just for you.

How to Write a Story

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

ONLY for Schools (Grades 1-12)

This practical, exercise-filled session teaches students the importance of storytelling and the craft’s preparation and presentation techniques. Conducted by an award-winning storyteller, this program is ideal for any class, and particularly useful for students interested in public speaking and the theater. Depending upon the number of students present, the program can be adapted to the teacher’s specific needs. There is considerable student involvement and useful examples of different types of stories, their organizational structure, and recall techniques in this fun-filled, practical workshop session.

THE ARTS

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

Shakespeare to You!

Allyson Sands | allysonsands@gmail.com | (302) 250-1122

ONLY for Schools (Grades 1-12)

Experience Shakespeare in a new and inviting way through discussion of visceral themes and by discovering clues which Shakespeare put in his scripts to help people bring the plays to life as he intended. Transcend the 400 year generation gap by discussing key themes that affect current times as well as Elizabethan times. Ms. Good will engage participants through simple exercises, scene study and scene portrayal using the play currently being studied.

Storytelling from Brandywine to the Bay

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

NOT for K-12 Schools

Experience adult storytelling through tales of history, humor, romance, and mystery, all set in familiar sites between the head-water of the Brandywine and the banks of the Delaware Bay. Learn about the region's rich history through yarns, folk-tales, and historical and contemporary pieces told by this well-known local author and storyteller.

They Make Us Laugh: Humor Through Literature

Lee Mussoff | leemusso@rcn.com | (302) 227-6169

NOT for K-12 Schools

While authors may tickle our funny bone, they also make us squirm. Our best artists make us see the truth about ourselves and it isn't always pretty. Using CD's, videos, and lectures, the speaker will present and discuss selections from a variety of writers, playwrights, and lyricists who combine humor and insight to help us laugh at ourselves. Audience participation is welcome.

THE ARTS

SOUND & STAGE

All Over This Land: American Regional Folk Music

Saul Broudy | saulbro@aol.com | (215) 637-1465

NOT for K-12 Schools

Though society is becoming increasingly homogeneous, regional expressive variation still exists and reflects the strength of our cultural differences. Through live performance (accompanying his singing with guitar and harmonica), Saul Broudy presents grassroots songs from various regions, such as Louisiana, Texas, Pennsylvania, California, the Appalachians, and Canada, and discusses how these songs help us identify who we are and where we came from.

Mime Through the Ages

Nancy B. Lynch | nbart11@comcast.net | (302) 543-6369

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Participants will learn the history of the silent actor from ancient times through Commedia dell'arte, the French mime tradition, Marcel Marceau, and the familiar street mime, during a colorful slide show. After a short pantomime performance by the presenter, a veteran stage director, theatre educator and performer, they will then enjoy active mime games and learn some pantomime illusions. The length of performance and active participation time can be adapted to the wishes of the sponsoring group.

Shel Silverstein is Alive and Well

Nancy B. Lynch | nbart11@comcast.net | (302) 543-6369

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Shel Silverstein is remembered mostly for his poetry for children, but he produced volumes of material —plays, cartoons and music — for more mature audiences, as well. In the presentation for adult groups, participants will gain a new appreciation of his children's poetry and enjoy selected adult writings through readings and group activities. The presenter, a veteran stage director and performer, will lead discussion of the elements of poetry and drama and of Shel Silverstein's life and work. Participants will be invited to improvise, interpret and read his works aloud. Classroom visits for students will emphasize his children's poetry, and in small groups, they will improvise movement and perform some of his poems for the class.

THE ARTS

SOUND & STAGE

Singing Workers: American Occupational Folk Songs

Saul Broudy | saulbro@aol.com | (215) 637-1465

NOT for K-12 Schools

Before modern mass media and widespread literacy, workers in various occupations made their own songs to express their emotions, convey information, tell stories, solidify group identity, and help them make it through the day. Saul Broudy sings the songs of railroad workers, coal miners, farmers, hobos, truck drivers, pilots, and other workers, and discusses the role this music played in the workers' lives.

The Glorious American Musical: A Mirror of Our Time

Lee Mussoff | leemusso@rcn.com | (302) 227-6169

NOT for K-12 Schools

The American musical has evolved through the 20th century from vaudeville through rock. One of America's greatest contributions to world culture, the musical gives us not only immortal music and song but also mirrors major events and turning points. As early as 1927, Showboat was dealing with prejudice and civil rights; in 1943, in the midst of World War II, Oklahoma celebrated the growth of a bright new land, reminding us of what we were fighting for. The speaker will discuss a variety of shows from a historical perspective and will include many musical selections. Audience participation is encouraged.

This Just In: When Radio and Television Came of Age

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

This lively program examines how mass media provided people with entertainment and news before the digital age. Newspapers and printed matter are part of the story, as well as the golden age of broadcasting when people turned to radios and televisions. If desired, the program can emphasize the time when radio reigned as the means of communication, and music and news from a distance battled static on the receiver, or focus on the golden age of newspapers. It may include fascinating and entertaining sound bites to help take participants back to earlier eras as the audience hears nostalgic radio dramas, tunes from long ago, and urgent news flashes. The program may also include a thoughtful discussion about the changes that have occurred in mass communication.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

ETHICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Ethical Issues in Medicine

Stephen Taylor | staylor@desu.edu | (302) 854-6634

NOT for K-12 Schools

Under this title, any one of the following three topics will be available for presentation:

Informed Consent in the Medical Context will explore practical considerations concerning the necessary elements of informed consent and the safeguards that need to be followed in order to guarantee that truly informed consent is achieved.

Privacy and Confidentiality in the Clinical Context will examine the moral right to privacy of the clinical patient in its two most fundamental aspects: first, the extent to which information concerning the patient, in the clinical setting, is to be kept confidential, and second, the extent to which others are allowed to observe the patient in the clinical context.

Withholding or Withdrawing Medical Treatment will explore the moral right of a patient to refuse recommended medical treatment from the perspectives of both the competent patient and the dependent patient, and will focus on the various types of advanced medical directives as well as the role of patient surrogates and patient advocates in healthcare decision-making for others.

Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide: Ethical Issues

Stephen Taylor | staylor@desu.edu | (302) 854-6634

NOT for K-12 Schools

The related issues of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide will be examined as they pertain to clinical patients who are reasonably considered terminally or irreversibly ill or injured. Important distinctions that are inherent both in and between these two medical moral issues will be explored to identify the moral rights and responsibilities of the relevant parties.

Fake News, Fraud, and Honest Error: The Psychology of Belief

Joan DeFattore | jdel@udel.edu | (302) 737-7124

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

How do we decide what we believe, and what we don't believe? Drawing on philosophical, psychological, and legal resources – and avoiding partisan politics – this talk outlines a few of the unconscious factors that influence the way humans reach conclusions and make decisions.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

ETHICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Patients and Their Physicians: Ethical Questions

Stephen Taylor | staylor@desu.edu | (302) 854-6634

NOT for K-12 Schools

The following moral concepts that are fundamental in the relationship between a physician and a patient will be considered: autonomy, paternalism, and truth-telling. Associations among these three moral concepts and the many practical and ethical considerations that stem from them will be explored using the physician/patient relationship.

Restorative Justice

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko | charitocw@aol.com | (717) 951-0905

NOT for K-12 Schools

Ancient principles, the modern concept of criminal justice and the theory of restorative justice will be discussed as an alternative to the current justice system from the perspective of a former lawyer. Ms. Calvachi-Mateyko, a restorative justice practitioner, gives a brief overview of the challenges presented by the current punitive system and invites the participants to consider a different way to handle crime today.

The Right to Lie

Joan DeFattore | jdel@udel.edu | (302) 737-7124

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

In 2016, a federal appeals court struck down an Ohio law that provided penalties for lying during political campaigns. The reason? There is, in fact, a constitutional right to lie. Sure, you can be prosecuted for things like fraud, perjury, and libel, but those are exceptions. In general, constitutional protection for free speech does not depend on whether the speech is true. And when the topic is politics, untruthful speech is not only protected under the First Amendment, but enjoys the highest level of constitutional protection. This talk examines why. We'll step back from the fray of partisan politics to take a look at the history and ideas behind our current system.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

TRADITIONS & PASTIMES

Etiquette and Cultural Interpretations

Lisa Strong Chase | chasels1@verizon.net | (302) 382-0206

NOT for K-12 Schools

Follow the evolution of civil society's "rules of the game" as they developed from King Louis XIV's court through the interpretations and societal impact of "proper manners" in the New World and the Victorian era to today's society, where customs can differ greatly from one country to the next, especially in the area of entertaining guests. Learn about the origins of a variety of our most genteel behaviors, and how to be properly at ease in social and business settings.

Stories Worth Repeating

Sharon Moore | jaynshaye@comcast.net | (302) 762-7926

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

Stories Worth Repeating is a celebration of people, places and special times composed from interviews of community members. Learnings and lessons are reflected in stories read by Ms. Moore. Documentation is explored with a presentation of quilt samples, pictures, and scrapbook pages. This unique presentation offers the opportunity for reflection and appreciation of the brocade pattern of our lives.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

GLOBAL ISSUES & PERSPECTIVES

Diversity in Latin America

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko | charitocw@aol.com | (717) 951-0905

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

Latin American history, anthropology, geography, language and music disciplines will be blended to present the diversity among the many countries that make up Latin America. The presentation combines images of people and places, as well as music and ways of expression through dance. Teachers and audiences can identify specific themes for the presenter to focus on and students will be invited to participate.

From Africa to the Americas via Music, Dance, & Stories ★

Kamau Ngom | kamaungom@aol.com | (302) 652-6336

NOT for K-12 Schools

This is a journey from Africa to the Americas using music, song, dance, and stories as mediums, highlighting the similarities between traditional African culture and African influenced culture in the Americas. Audience participation is a must as this is a village-oriented presentation.

Kwanzaa ★

Kamau Ngom | kamaungom@aol.com | (302) 652-6336

NOT for K-12 Schools

Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday derived from harvest celebrations practiced throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Learn of its creation, the early years, and its development into a holiday that is observed by millions. Also, learn of the “traditional” celebratory procedures that occur in the home and community (village). And, let us not forget about Kwanzaa songs!

Peace-building Traditions

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko | charitocw@aol.com | (717) 951-0905

NOT for K-12 Schools

Latin American history, anthropology, political science and peace-building disciplines will be considered from the perspective of a native Ecuadorian with a master degree in conflict transformation and a doctorate in law. The presentation approaches popular history, folktales, indigenous traditions and the history of resistance to injustice from multiple diverse perspectives.

CULTURE & SOCIETY

GLOBAL ISSUES & PERSPECTIVES

Splendid and Miraculous Medicines: Healing Practices of the Lenape People

Cara Blume | cara.blume@mac.com | (302) 678-1037

NOT for K-12 Schools

The Swedish engineer Per Lindstrom described the herbal medicines of the Lenape people he observed during his 1654 – 1655 visit to New Sweden as “splendid and miraculous.” However, Lenape practitioners (past and present) apply those medicines within a spiritual context that prescribes how those medicines should be gathered, prepared and applied, and includes practices that today would be described as mind/body healing. This presentation describes Lenape medical practice within the context of Lenape spirituality.

Talking About Identity: Who Are You? Who Am I?

Julia Byrem | julia@nextworldcollective.org | (302) 750-9949

ONLY for Schools (Grades 1-12)

One way to connect with others is to listen to their stories of who they are and where they've been. Through active listening and reflective activities, students are invited to think about their own story and identity. This program is on the concept of identity, family, and community, and introduces the idea that we can be different depending on where we are and who we are surrounded by. The concepts of personal integrity, identity, and community are discussed.

HISTORY

DELMARVA HISTORY

The Amazing Hannah Penn ♀

Jean Norvell | norvell9@verizon.net | (302) 395-4545

NOT for K-12 Schools

She was twenty-five years younger when she married an icon of the Quaker faith. Hannah Penn tells the story of her own and William's childhood. She recounts her life as 'the second wife'; tells of uncooperative and stubborn step children and of the Penn's mounting debt. When William died, Hannah became the Proprietor of Pennsylvania, and needed all her business skills to govern the province and pay down its debt. She succeeded: she governed her Province for eight years from England, and at her death the Penns and Pennsylvania were completely debt free. This is a living history presentation and can be adapted to the age or interest of the audience.

Black Delaware Participation in the Civil War ★

Ron Whittington | rwhitt@udel.edu | (302) 764-0444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

A first-person portrayal of William Owen, a free black man from Milford, Delaware. Owen tells the story of hearing Frederick Douglass speak and deciding to become part of the 54th Massachusetts, the renowned first black regiment to fight in the Civil War.

Civil War Trivia and Fort Delaware Tales

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Major events associated with the Civil War often get the most attention. This presentation shares lesser known, but equally important facts and trivia about the conflict. However, after providing an overview of the tragic era, the talk's focus shifts to the role of Fort Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic region's involvement in this major American conflict that remains a fascination to both scholars and students.

Delaware History Through Stories, Folklore, and Legends

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

ONLY for Schools (Grades 3-12)

Through the age-old techniques of storytelling (updated with PowerPoint images) students learn about Delaware's involvement in the Revolutionary War, Declaration of Independence, War of 1812, Underground Railroad, Civil War, and other historical topics, including slavery, pirates, the Mason-Dixon Line, lost graveyards, and "Woodburn," the Governor's Mansion. The author's specialty is combining history and folklore, which stimulates the students' interest in the topic by attracting their attention with local legends and ghost stories, thereby sharing history in an enjoyable way.

HISTORY

DELMARVA HISTORY

Delaware in the Civil War

Gary Wray | gdwray1@verizon.net | (302) 645-0753

NOT for K-12 Schools

This lecture examines Delaware's involvement in the War through the eyes of Delaware's greatest Civil War soldier, MGA Alfred A. Torbert of Georgetown. Other topics to be discussed include Fort Delaware, Delaware's industrial contribution to the war, other Delawareans in the war, and the geographic importance of Delaware to the Union.

Delaware in World War II

Gary Wray | gdwray1@verizon.net | (302) 645-0753

NOT for K-12 Schools

Many Delawareans are surprised to learn of the state's role in the successful conclusion of World War II. This lecture examines Delaware's involvement in the War including the surrender of the German U-boat 858 at Fort Miles, German Prisoners in Delaware, Delaware heroes in the War, and the role of the DuPont Company during the War.

Food Lore: Scrapple, Muskrat, and More

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

NOT for K-12 Schools

Learn about the region's historic association with food and the personal heritage and regional influences associated with what we eat. From the catches of Chesapeake Bay watermen and duck hunters to the customs preserved in immigrant neighborhoods, what we consume reflects who we are, where we came from, and where we live and work. In this informative and entertaining program, learn about and discuss America's regional foods and, in particular, the cuisine most identified with the immediate Delmarva region.

The History of the C&D Canal: A Tale of Towns, Locks, and Bridges

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

NOT for K-12 Schools

Every town and village along the canal has a fascinating story to be told. In this slide-illustrated talk, which focuses on how these places grew, you will discover the role that mule-drawn barges, locks, steamboats and changing modes of transportation played in shaping this part of Delaware.

HISTORY

DELMARVA HISTORY

Life in the Past Lane: Country Roads

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

NOT for K-12 Schools

With the arrival of modern, high speed highways, many of Delaware's scenic routes and the small hamlets and villages clustered around those old corridors are overlooked. This program explores the character, ambiance, and history of some of these lesser-traveled roads. These historic roadways are so much more than just a line on the map, so come along for an enjoyable trip as we hear intriguing stories about waterfront towns, agricultural communities, and country hamlets and villages, where discovery awaits you.

Louise du Pont Crowninshield: Preservation Pioneer ♀

Kim Burdick | kimrburdick@aol.com | (302) 543-5723

NOT for K-12 Schools

This slide-illustrated lecture explores the life of Louise Crowninshield, the sister of Henry Francis du Pont. Raised at Winterthur, she and her brother became well known collectors and scholars of Americana. While H.F. was forming what would later become Winterthur Museum, Louise was helping to lay the groundwork for what would become America's historic preservation movement. Her work is recognized as having been of key importance to organizations such as the National Park Service and the Salem Maritime Complex.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Delaware's Forgotten Daughter ★ ♀

Lora Englehart | lenglehart67@gmail.com | (610) 793-9370

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

Mary Ann Shad Cary (1823-1893) was one of the most accomplished and celebrated women in black history. She was born in Wilmington, yet few Delaware residents have ever heard of her. Shad Cary seems more a woman of our times than of her own. Teacher, journalist, editor, feminist, lawyer, wife and mother...it is easy to imagine her as a modern-day superwoman, preaching and practicing a life committed to racial and gender equality. It is harder to imagine a woman, especially a woman of color, leading a life so rich with accomplishments 150 years ago.

HISTORY

DELMARVA HISTORY

The Native Peoples of Delaware: Indian Cultures and History

Marshall Becker | mbecker@wcupd.edu | (302) 995-1233

NOT for K-12 Schools

Residents of modern Delaware may be familiar with the names of Native Americans such as Lenape ("Delaware"), Susquehannock ("Minquas"), Iroquois, and Ciconicin (Sikonese). These names remind us of the many Native American peoples who lived in and around Delaware before the coming of Columbus. How they lived and how they interacted with one another is better known now thanks to recent archaeological finds and new historical studies. The new histories of the Lenape and the Ciconicin cultures reveal how they interacted with other native peoples as well as with the Swedish, Dutch, English, and other colonists. These findings form the basis for this slide illustrated lecture.

People Who Stayed Behind: Indian People of Delaware

1630-Present

Cara Blume | cara.blume@mac.com | (302) 678-1037

NOT for K-12 Schools

Dr. Blume's presentation is a discussion of the post-European contact history of the Nanticoke and Lenape people who remained in Delaware following the diaspora of the early-to mid-eighteenth century when many families of both tribes moved north to join with the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) in New York and Canada or west to join with other Lenape people on the long trek to Oklahoma. She focuses on the challenges faced by both tribes in surviving as distinct tribal communities separate from their Euro-American and African American neighbors and the strategies they used to maintain their identities as Indian peoples. She also discusses the difficulties faced by historians and anthropologists today in researching the history of these communities as a result of decisions made by record keepers and researchers in the past.

Rails in Delaware

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

The railroad was once an important link to the outside world for many Delawareans and the local depot was the center of the community, a place to catch a train and learn the news of the day. As tracks spread downstate, growth followed the lines. This slide-illustrated program traces the social history of trains in the First State, from the beginning of the railroad age to the present.

HISTORY

DELMARVA HISTORY

Seized in September: Revolutionary War Comes to Delaware

Kim Burdick | kimrburdick@aol.com | (302) 543-5723

NOT for K-12 Schools

Have you ever wondered what happened in Delaware during the Revolutionary War? How did the British get from the Head of the Elk River to Chadds Ford for the Battle of the Brandywine? Kim Burdick is a specialist in Delaware History and folk culture, and audiences of all ages will be amazed to hear letters and writings by colonial Delawareans describing the arrival of the British army and the social upheaval it brought to our colony.

So You Think You Know All About Delaware?

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

For a small state, Delaware has a wealth of unique characteristics related to its history, politics, geography, social movements, and diversity, plus well-known historic figures and modern-day personalities. This talk, presented partially in a “Jeopardy/trivia” style, spotlights the First State’s major and lesser known (but equally significant) traits and accomplishments, spotlighting facts, which will be surprising to both newcomers and Blue Hen natives.

The Tales Tombstones Tell

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

NOT for K-12 Schools

From the tombstone carved in the shape of the state of Delaware to the ‘Remember Me As Thou Stands by’ marker, Delaware’s cemeteries record our history and reflect our ever-changing modern world. This presentation, accompanied by color and black and white images, presents Delaware’s history, culture, and major historical figures and events through grave markers. The talk examines tombstone architecture and interesting inscriptions and shows how permanent memorials reflect individual tastes and specific historical periods.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

Against Our Nature: Understanding Socialization, Constructed Identity, and Race in the United States

Julia Byrem | julia@nextworldcollective.org | (302) 750-9949

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

Before we can transform society, we must understand how it works. The United States is a nation founded on racial inequality. Understanding the history of race in the U.S. and the ways in which racial identity is constructed is vital to destabilizing systemic racism and racial oppression. Race is a social construction rather than a biological “fact.” This presentation will discuss how and why the concept of race came to exist in the United States.

African Americans and the Civil War ★

Kathy Trusty | kathy@blackhistoryedzone.com | (201) 532-6737

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

At first they were not allowed to fight. Then they were and more than 180,000 signed up. This is a presentation on African Americans, free and enslaved, and their role in the Civil War. It examines the challenges they faced and puts a face to soldiers who fought valiantly for the Union cause and freedom.

Alexander Hamilton: Architect of the American Financial System

Gene Pisasale | gene@genepisasale.com | (610) 925-1795

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

This presentation is given as Hamilton himself “comes alive” before the audience, telling the story of his life and times. This has been presented at several historical societies, libraries, and other venues in the Chester county/Philadelphia area to great acclaim, including at the historic Hale-Byrnes House in Newark, Delaware. Hamilton describes his rise from orphan to patriot-soldier, to aide-de-camp to General Washington up through his involvement in the crafting of the U.S. Constitution and becoming Secretary of Treasury. He describes how he transformed the nation from a bankrupt collection of states to the most successful and prosperous nation on Earth. This presentation is not aligned in anyway with the Broadway show, but compliments it in many ways. Several attendees at this presentation who have seen “Hamilton” on Broadway remarked that my presentation was an excellent addition to what they saw and learned.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

Bessie Coleman: Inspired to Fly ★ ♀

Sharon Moore | jaynshaye@comcast.net | (302) 762-7926

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

This presentation uncovers and appreciates the power, ingenuity, and strength of Bessie Coleman. The circumstances surrounding her life might suggest that obtaining basic needs would be sufficient. Yet, she exceeded acquiring the basics and forged forward as a pioneer in territory only moderately developed — aviation. She propelled beyond barriers in a male-dominated arena and became a flyer.

Celebrating 100 Years: Revisiting the Women's Suffrage Movement with "2020" Hindsight ♀

Lora Englehart | lenglehart67@gmail.com | (610) 793-9370

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which finally gave American women the right to vote. In this presentation, we will meet some of the determined women, both on the national level and in Delaware, who lobbied for women's right to vote and those who fought against it.

Close to the Vest and Under the Skirt Tour of the Civil War ♀

Karen Jessee | kljessee@rcn.com | (302) 655-4637

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Characters Charles and Josephine from the 1860s reveal the many layers and accessories that created the fashionable look for the elegant mid-Victorian lady and gentleman. Josephine, who appears tastefully dressed in her underpinnings, introduces Charles who is in trousers, shirt and braces. Charles shows the types of underclothing worn by men along with beautiful examples of vests, cravats and coats. The program continues with Josephine, who explains the historical context of each piece of her underpinnings and continues to narrate as Charles proceeds to dress her in the many layers it took to create the silhouette of the times.

Documentary Photography and Japanese-American Internment

Jim Curtis | jcurtis@udel.edu | (302) 897-6002

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

The intention of this presentation is to question whether War Relocation Authority (WRA) photographs of the evacuation and internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II were value free documents or instruments of propaganda that reflected the political and racial views of both photographers and their government sponsors. Prominent among the photographers under discussion are Ansel Adams, Hikaru Iwasaki, and Dorothea Lange.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

The Greatest Patriots: Unsung Heroes of the Civil War

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

This talk takes a well-deserved look back at five relatively unknown but remarkable heroes and patriots who stepped forward during our country's greatest crisis to help "save the union" and bring about "a new birth of freedom." This quintet includes two southern-born officers, two African-American soldiers, and the woman who became known as "the Angel of the Battlefield." Each of them is an exemplar of the true meaning of patriotism—love and devotion to one's country.

Hamilton: More Than A Musical

Eric Mease | emease1@yahoo.com | (302) 943-0283

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

This one-hour PowerPoint lecture outlines the life of the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, Alexander Hamilton. The story is told using some of the videos and music from the hip hop Broadway musical, "Hamilton: An American Musical" by Lin-Manuel Miranda and filling in where the musical leaves some historic gaps. This lecture is designed to capture the imagination of both young and old about the rise and fall of one of the most brilliant young minds of our founding generation through the hip hop music of the today's young and young at heart.

History of the Negro Baseball Leagues ★

Ron Whittington | rwhitt@udel.edu | (302) 764-0444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Through a first-person interpretation of Baseball Hall of Famer William "Judy" Johnson, learn the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues prior to Jackie Robinson's participation in the major leagues of American baseball.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The Presidents of the United States

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Mr. Pritchett uses portraits, photographs, cartoons, and words from famous presidential speeches to illustrate both a presidential trivia quiz and a lecture trip through the history of the American presidency, focusing especially on the issues of slavery, civil rights, war, and peace. This look at American history through an examination of the lives and words of our chief executives can be interesting to audiences of all ages, to history buffs, as well as to those who don't think they enjoy history.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

The Life and Impact of Jackie Robinson ★

Ron Whittington | rwhitt@udel.edu | (302) 764-0444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

In the spring of 1947, Jackie Robinson played his first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking down Major Leagues Baseball's decades-old color line and changing the face of the game forever. The program gives the audience an intimate look at Robinson and the impact he has had on society and today's culture.

The Lincolns: A Portrait of a Family

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, who met in 1839 and married in 1842, seemed at first glance to have nothing in common. Yet, they made a marriage that was probably one of the most consequential in American history, as they came to the White House in the midst of the country's greatest crisis. This talk will look back at this improbable pair, their four sons, and the heartbreaking series of tragedies that struck the family before, during, and after the Civil War.

Marquis de Lafayette and the Battle of the Brandywine

Gene Pisasale | gene@genepisasale.com | (610) 925-1795

NOT for K-12 Schools

The lecture highlights the little-known role that Marquis de Lafayette played in America's war for independence, including his participation at the Battle of the Brandywine on September 11, 1777. His ongoing support, both monetary and political, helped win the war against Great Britain and earns him some recognition as a "Founding Son" of our country. The lecture was inspired when the speaker visited Brandywine Battlefield Park and was alerted of its imminent closure.

The Mason Dixon Line: The Story Behind the Boundary

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Not for K-12 Schools

Born as the result of a bitter territorial dispute over royal land grants, the Mason-Dixon Line was surveyed between 1763 and 1767 to settle the boundaries for Pennsylvania and Maryland. After 1820, when the Missouri Compromise created political conditions which made the line important to the history of slavery, it became associated with the division between the free and slave states. Today the line is still seen by many as a symbolic dividing line for regional attitudes and customs. This program explores the story of the line and the perceptions that have developed about the boundary.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

Meet the First Ladies: Trivia & Tales of the Presidents' Wives ♀

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

The most influential, but often overlooked, person in the life of the U.S. President has been the First Lady. This presentation will provide an overview of how the role of First Lady has changed over the centuries, and how these influential spouses have assisted, supported, and advised their husbands. Audiences will hear surprising facts and detailed stories involving heroic actions, policy decisions, election campaign improvement, and special projects associated with these world figures.

Meet the Presidents

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Presidential history is a mixture of mystery, superstition, and legend, but the facts associated with the country's 44 chief executives may prove more fascinating than fiction. Find out through a number of interesting and outlandish tales in this presentation—that begins with a brief quiz for members of the audience which will help them discover and compare their PKL, "Presidential Knowledge Level."

Nothing to Fear: The Triumph of FDR

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt took the oath of office as the 32nd President on March 4, 1933, he famously said that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". Over the next twelve years and one month, as he led the country through the Great Depression and World War II, the generation that he said had "a rendezvous with destiny" summoned the same courage that he himself had shown twelve years before when he was stricken with infantile paralysis. This illustrated talk will look back at FDR's life, his presidency, and listen to some of his most eloquent words.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

The Orphan Train Movement of 1854-1929

Donna Aviles | daviles@comcast.net | (302) 543-5130

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Learn the history of this seventy-five year “social experiment”—now recognized as our country’s first Foster Care System—which transported an estimated 250,000 homeless children from the streets of East Coast cities to farming communities of the Midwest in search of stable homes. This presentation includes the first person account of orphan train rider Oliver Nordmark who, in 1906, traveled with his younger brother from the Children’s Village on Long Island to the small town of Bern, Kansas. Attendees will hear audio recordings of Oliver telling just what it was like to ride the orphan train and then be chosen by a childless farmer and his wife. Additional recordings include “life in the orphanage” and “living in a sod house on the Kansas prairie.” The presentation concludes with a discussion of the importance of journaling one’s own story, through oral history or personal narrative, as a means of preserving social history. Q&A is encouraged throughout the presentation as well as at the end.

Pass the Rum: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

This program looks at the historical attempt to regular the consumption of alcohol over the centuries. While most people are aware of prohibition in the 1920, during the so called Noble Experiment, attempts to regulate this behavior extend far into our past. While the program pays deeper attention to the modern era, as the nation and the State of Delaware struggled to live with the prohibition law for nearly 14 years, it takes a much longer view. During the presentation the audience will hear colorful stories of rum runners, moonshiners, bathtub gin, intriguing personalities, complicated politics, organized crime, outgunned lawmen, and the temperance movement.

The Past is Never Dead: The Bitter Legacy of the Civil War

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

William Faulkner, the Nobel prize-winning novelist, once wrote that “the past is never dead; it isn’t even past”. Those words seem especially true about the cataclysmic event that occurred in the United States a century and a half ago, the Civil War. Although the war brought about the end of chattel slavery, and freed four million people from bondage, it did not bring about healing of racial and sectional division that had plagued the country from its beginning, and continue to plague us today. This illustrated talk will help draw the connections between today’s headlines and the heavy hand of the past. Please note that this talk includes graphic images and descriptions of a lynching.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

Presidential Pet Tales (and Tails)

Ed Okonowicz | edo@mystandlace.com | (410) 398-5013

NOT for K-12 Schools

Millions of Americans love their pets, and America's First Families are no exceptions, having had their share of feathered and furry friends. From Washington to Obama, a wide range of faithful companions resided in and roamed around the White House—including dogs, cats, ponies and parrots, plus a few bears, tigers, horses and alligators. From Abe Lincoln's pet turkey to Bill Clinton's faithful companions 'Buddy' and 'Socks'; from Gerald Ford's secretive adoption of 'Liberty' to Woodrow Wilson's landscaping crew of goats, this entertaining and informative program is perfect for February (Presidents' Month) or anytime during the year.

Remember the Ladies ♀

Eric Mease | emease1@yahoo.com | (302) 943-0283

Suitable for Schools (Grades 1-12)

The musical, *Hamilton: An American Musical*, introduced us to Elizabeth Schuyler-Hamilton who, until recently, was known mainly to historians. Now, our kids and grandchildren sing her praises! Elizabeth Schuyler-Hamilton is only one of many women in the pantheon of American's founders. This lecture helps us abide by Abigail Adam's wish that we "remember the ladies," including both Elizabeth Hamilton and Abigail Adams, as well as Martha Washington and Dolley Madison.

Vietnam Mailbag

Nancy E. Lynch | dewritestuff@gmail.com | (302) 875-5132

NOT for K-12 Schools

When American troops in Vietnam answered the call to correspond with a young reporter four decades ago, they could not have envisioned the enduring relevancy of their war letters or the rich legacy their words, photographs and memorabilia would leave to succeeding generations. Ms. Lynch discusses and reads selected war letters from her book, *Vietnam Mailbag, Voices From the War: 1968-1972*, based on her popular newspaper column, "Nancy's Vietnam Mailbag." She is accompanied by Vietnam veteran Rick Lovekin, a Huey helicopter door gunner, Cobra crew chief and frequent letter writer to Nancy, who shows slides from Vietnam set to 1960s music.

HISTORY

U.S. HISTORY

Voters at Last: Battling for the Ballot ♀

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

There was a period in our past when voting rights were reserved primarily for white male property owners. But during a long struggle the rights of the ballot were extended regardless of property ownership, race, or sex. This lively program presents the history of the expansion of suffrage as it lays out arguments made by both sides in the hotly debated and often ridiculed subject. Particular attention can be paid to women's suffrage, a time when Delaware was on the front line of the controversial debate.

We Came in Peace: 50 Years on the Moon

Eric Mease | emease1@yahoo.com | (302) 943-0283

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

On July 20th, 1969, in full view of earthlings back home, an American named Neil Armstrong, became the first human being to leave a footprint on another celestial body, our moon. Armstrong, together with his crewmates Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin on the moon and Michael Collins orbiting above, united humanity and made history. This presentation examines that history: the people, the air and space crafts, the competition, the politics, and the tragedies surrounding the American moon landings as well as the men, women, and machines that made it possible.

With Malice Towards None: Abraham Lincoln in Words and Pictures

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

This illustrated lecture takes us through Lincoln's early life and character, including his remarkable physical strength, love of books (despite his lack of formal education), aversions to hunting, gambling, and drinking alcohol (against the status quo of the day), sense of compassion toward native Americans, and his almost visceral disgust about slavery, even though he grew up and lived in a very racist society and culture. The presentation also gives examples of some of Lincoln's most magnetic words and how he used his eloquent speaking manner to transform our country forever.

HISTORY

WORLD HISTORY

Bustles to Bras ♀

Karen Jessee | kljessee@rcn.com | (302) 655-4637

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

This presentation of vintage/historic clothing from a personal collection and fashion study in England uses history and humor to reveal the many influences that changed women's silhouettes from 1780-1980. It explains how women went from bustles to bell bottoms, and why the flapper in between was the modern women. We also peek underneath to see the ways women are padded, pinched, poufed and cinched into the latest style. Expect a bit of audience participation.

Childhood Memories of Wartime in London

Jean Norvell | norvell9@verizon.net | (302) 395-4545

NOT for K-12 Schools

"The day I was born, Hitler's troops annexed Austria, and the first ripple of war moved across Europe. This is a personal memory of growing up in war torn London, remembering air raids, the bombing, and the air raid shelters we slept in. It was after Hitler invaded Poland that England went to war, and that's when thousands of children, including my brother and sister, were evacuated to the country. Growing up with war had been my normal, and it took a while to adjust to no blackout, sleeping in a bed, and having all the family home together."

The Cuban Missile Crisis: When Three Men Saved the World

Dan Pritchett | mckinleyave287@gmail.com | (302) 359-2444

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

In October, 1962, after the United States government discovered that the Soviet Union was secretly installing nuclear offensive missiles in Cuba, one of the most dangerous confrontations in the history of the world took place. This talk will look more closely at this crisis, and how a nuclear war was averted by the calm actions and courageous decisions of three men—the President of the United States, the Premier of the Soviet Union, and a Soviet naval officer.

An Immigrant Story: Crossing the Atlantic in a 17th Century Ship

Jean Norvell | norvell9@verizon.net | (302) 395-4545

NOT for K-12 Schools

Welcome aboard this two-month voyage! Some of you will live and sleep in the cabin below deck, but others will be in the Skiff with the animals. Your social rank and where you sleep will be determined by the name tag you draw. Without refrigeration, we need to ensure that the food has been properly treated before we set sail. The crew will not discuss hygiene with you, but we have to talk about 'bodily functions' before we sail — the 'seats of ease' may challenge your modesty.

HISTORY

WORLD HISTORY

The Lady Was A Spy: Female Operatives in World War II ♀

Linda De Roche | linda.deroche@wesley.edu | (302) 674-0480

NOT for K-12 Schools

Throughout WWII, a group of fearless patriots risked their lives to achieve victory in Europe. They were the women of Britain's SOE (Special Operations Executive) and the United States' OSS. Women such as Virginia Hall, considered America's greatest female spy, and Christine Granville, Churchill's favorite spy, were crucial to the war effort, yet their stories and others' have only recently been revealed. This program focuses on the lives and experiences of these brave women, many of whom died in completing their missions, to highlight their unconventional contributions to victory in WWII.

Those Alluring Accessories ♀

Karen Jessee | kljessee@rcn.com | (302) 655-4637

NOT for K-12 Schools

Give yourself points as you guess the purpose and learn the history of women's accessories from the past. Once vital to a woman, these beautiful pieces that complimented her style and established her status in society have been lost to time as fashion, culture and industry changed. Well-researched from ancient cultures to the modern day woman, and featuring photographs from personal and private collections, this program combines history, humor, and fun. Learn about some of the lovely things that you see in museums, antique stores, and that even may have been in your own family, and do it as a game.

Wayward Women Travelers ♀

Linda De Roche | linda.deroche@wesley.edu | (302) 674-0480

NOT for K-12 Schools

During the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, a number of unconventional women defied stereotypical gender roles and expectations to travel boldly into lands and cultures to experience for the challenges and the appeal of the foreign and exotic. Often enduring hardships, sometimes risking their lives, and always defying conventions, these wayward women travelers refused to be limited by their sex and sought their own authentic experience. This program will relate the history of some of these exceptional women, placing their endeavors within the cultural context of the cult of domesticity that should have defined and confined their lives.

HISTORY

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

Adventures in Research

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Have you ever wondered about the historian's craft or how someone solves historical mysteries about their community, family or events? This program examines this subject by blending actual tales of intriguing historical discovery with basic insight on how to bring bygone memories and stories vividly to life. For anyone with a curiosity about the past, the program will be worthwhile as you accompany the presenter on a series of inquiries and learn about the process for understanding earlier times.

CSI: The Historical Edition

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

As the scientific age arrived, great advances in police science allowed detectives to crack complex cases. Drawing on intriguing crimes from long ago that were solved by emerging new methods, this one-hour program shows how science, technology, and professional practices evolved, helping detectives crack cases, which were once unsolvable.

Exploring Your Family History Through Genealogy

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Using a how-to approach, this program gives step-by-step instructions in getting started on a genealogical research project. Essential research techniques are introduced, genealogical records are discussed, and research facilities are identified. Throughout there is an emphasis on equipping the participant with the necessary information to carry on with researching and documenting a family's history. Based on the groups interest the records of specific ethnic groups will be included in the discussion. The program places a strong emphasis on the discussion of how the family's story fits into the larger context of community and history.

Preserving War Letters: Touchstones of Time

Nancy E. Lynch | dewritestuff@gmail.com | (302) 875-5132

NOT for K-12 Schools

Letters from any war constitute primary source material, first-hand accounts from the battlefield, and provide a unique window on that conflict. Preserving this priceless correspondence as social history for future generations is critical. Learn how—and how not—to safeguard letters from our Delaware troops at war in this lively, interactive program by award-winning journalist Nancy E. Lynch who received nearly 1,000 letters from the frontlines of the Vietnam War for her popular newspaper column.

HISTORY

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

Saving Family Treasures

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

NOT for K-12 Schools

Family treasures are often neglected, frequently tucked away in drawers, trunks and attics. Preserving these heirlooms – items such as marriage certificates, family Bibles, letters, journals, and photos – is important, for they tell us about the past and connect the generations. Yet, all too often, these relics are lost to accidents, deterioration, or the urge to clean house. This talk introduces caretakers to basic methods for preserving and protecting family relics and papers.

Unlocking the History of an Old House

Mike Dixon | info@dixonhistory.com | (302) 533-8381

Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Just as families have a past, old houses and the land they are built on have histories. This practical lecture is designed to show you how to uncover that past and answer questions such as when was the structure built, who lived in it, how has it changed over time, and what are its stories. The discussion centers on implementing an organized research process, what records are available, where to look for documents, and interpreting the findings. The discussion concludes by presenting suggestions for creating a history of an old house. If you know where to look, you may find the clues to the past.

List of Speakers

CONTACT FOR PROGRAM AVAILABILITY

Donna Aviles	daviles@comcast.net	(302) 543-5130
Marshall Becker	mbecker@wcupd.edu	(302) 995-1233
Cara Blume	cara.blume@mac.com	(302) 678-1037
Saul Broudy	saulbro@aol.com	(215) 637-1465
Kim Burdick	kimrburdick@aol.com	(302) 543-5723
Charito Calvachi-Mateyko	charitocw@aol.com	(717) 951-0905
Lisa Chase	Chasels1@verizon.net	(302) 382-0206
Jim Curtis	jcurtis@udel.edu	(302) 897-6002
Joan DeFattore	jdel@udel.edu	(302) 737-7124
Linda De Roche	linda.deroche@wesley.edu	(302) 674-0480
Mike Dixon	info@dixonhistory.com	(302) 533-8381
Lora Englehart	Lenglehart67@gmail.com	(610) 793-9370
Karen Jessee	kljessee@rcn.com	(302) 655-4637
Lloyd King	lloydeking@comcast.net	(302) 834-7781
Eunice Lafate	arteun@aol.com	(302) 658-4547
Nancy B. Lynch	nbart11@comcast.net	(302) 543-6369
Nancy E. Lynch	dewritestuff@gmail.com	(302) 875-5132
Eric Mease	emease1@yahoo.com	(302) 943-0283
Sharon Moore	jaynshaye@comcast.net	(302) 762-7926
Lee Mussoff	leemusso@rcn.com	(302) 227-6169
Kamau Ngom	kamaungom@aol.com	(302) 652-6336
Jean Norvell	norvell9@verizon.net	(302) 395-4545
Ed Okonowicz	edo@mystandlace.com	(410) 398-5013
Gene Pisasale	gene@genepisasale.com	(610) 925-1795
Dan Pritchett	mckinleyave287@gmail.com	(302) 359-2444
Allyson Sands	allysonsands@gmail.com	(302) 250-1122
Stephen Taylor	staylor@desu.edu	(302) 854-6634
Kathy Trusty	kathy@blackhistoryedzone.com	(302) 532-6737
Ron Whittington	rwhitt@udel.edu	(302) 764-0444
Gary Wray	gdwray1@verizon.net	(302) 645-0753