



DELaWARE
HUMANITIES

Speakers Catalog

2021

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.

Culture & Diversity

ART & LITERATURE

A Shakespeare Celebration

Lloyd King

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

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.

Art as Prevention

Eunice LaFate

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.

Culture & Diversity

ART & LITERATURE

All Over This Land: American Regional Folk Music

Saul Broudy

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.

Beyond Journaling: How Reflective Writing Can Reduce Stress

Joan DeFattore

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.

Folk Art & Culture

Eunice LaFate

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!

Culture & Diversity

ART & LITERATURE

Shel Silverstein is Alive and Well

Nancy B. Lynch

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.

Singing Workers: American Occupational Folk Songs

Saul Broudy

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.

Culture & Diversity

SOCIETY & PEOPLE

Diversity in Latin America

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko

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.

Etiquette and Cultural Interpretations

Lisa Strong Chase

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

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.

Media & Democracy

ETHICS & POLITICS

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

Joan DeFattore

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.

Restorative Justice

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko

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

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.

Stories & Histories

DELMARVA HISTORY

The Amazing Hannah Penn ♀

Jean Norvell

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 living history presentation can be adapted to the audience.

Delaware in World War II

Gary Wray

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.

Louise du Pont Crowninshield: Preservation Pioneer ♀

Kim Burdick

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.

Marquis de Lafayette and the Battle of the Brandywine

Gene Pisasale

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.

Stories & Histories

DELMARVA HISTORY

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

Lora Englehart

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.

Seized in September: Revolutionary War Comes to Delaware

Kim Burdick

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.

We Have Been Here Before: Delmarva During the 1918 Pandemic

Mike Dixon

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

This program examines the impact of the so-called Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918 on Delmarva and nearby points. The virus took a grim toll on the Delmarva region, and it overwhelmed the health care system, forcing the region to shut down for an extended period. Although they didn't call it social distancing at the top of the twentieth century, the methods they used to quarantine the contagion are similar to what we practice today. Thus, as the world struggles with the novel COVID-19 contagion, we will take a relevant look at the past to see how people in the region 102-years ago managed a similar situation, at a time when medical science did not have a treatment for the pathogen.

Stories & Histories

U.S. HISTORY

African Americans and the Civil War ★

Kathy Trusty

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.

Bessie Coleman: Inspired to Fly ★★♀♀

Sharon Moore

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

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.

Stories & Histories

U.S. HISTORY

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

Karen Jessee

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.

Hamilton: More Than A Musical

Eric Mease

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.

The Lincolns: A Portrait of a Family

Dan Pritchett

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.

Stories & Histories

U.S. HISTORY

Nothing to Fear: The Triumph of FDR

Dan Pritchett

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.

Oh Say Can You See...

Eric Mease

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

Recently, the “Star Spangled Banner,” our National Anthem, has been a touch stone for civil rights issues and national controversy. Its words were born out of national crisis, written by a man who was himself no stranger to controversy — the song’s melody originated with a British men’s club celebrating wine and sex. This lecture explores the origin of the song, the author, a few of the controversies, and the times during which our anthem was conceived.

The Orphan Train Movement of 1854-1929

Donna Aviles

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.

Stories & Histories

U.S. HISTORY

Pass the Rum: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition

Mike Dixon

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.

Vietnam Mailbag

Nancy E. Lynch

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.

We Came in Peace: 50 Years on the Moon

Eric Mease

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.

Stories & Histories

WORLD HISTORY

Bustles to Bras ♀

Karen Jessee

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

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

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

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.

Stories & Histories

WORLD HISTORY

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

Linda De Roche

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

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

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

CSI: The Historical Edition

Mike Dixon

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

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

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.