

Speaker Program Catalog

2022

DELaWARE
HUMANITIES

Hosting a Speaker Program Checklist

Thank you for your interest in our Speakers program! Be sure to check off the points on the list below to successfully host a Delaware Humanities Speaker event.

BEFORE completing the online request form:

- Select a program. Have you already had this program this cycle (November 1, 2021-April 30, 2022 or May 1, 2022-October 31, 2022)? If so, select an alternate program.
- Contact the Speaker and arrange a date and time.
REMEMBER: If the Speaker is to be part of an event with a meal or meeting, the start time is when the Speaker begins. Speakers are not required or expected to sit through a meal or meeting.
- Ask the Speaker about their audio/visual needs.
- Check the calendar—if the event is to happen in less than 30 days, you must call Delaware Humanities first.

COMPLETE the online request form.

- Visit dehumanities.org and click “Log-in” in the bottom right-hand corner to access the online application.

AFTER completing the online request form:

- Wait to hear back from Delaware Humanities before advertising. Funding is limited, and your program may not be approved. You will know of approval within 7-10 days of submission. If your program is more than 3 months in the future, approval may take longer.

After being approved and **BEFORE** the program:

- Log into the application system and complete the Grant Agreement within 7 days.
- Mail your check payment to Delaware Humanities (your grant agreement is also considered your invoice).
- Print out the audience evaluations (they can be found in #8 of the grant agreement and on Delaware Humanities’ website) or be sure you have ready the link for audience evaluations to be completed online.
- Contact the Speaker at least one more time to check in.

The **DAY OF** the program:

- Distribute the audience evaluations/audience evaluation link before the program starts.
- Introduce the speaker and thank Delaware Humanities.
- Collect the completed audience evaluations/remind audience members to visit the link and submit their evaluation.

AFTER the program:

- Log into the application system and complete the Program Coordinator Evaluation.
- Scan and attach your audience evaluations to your Program Coordinator Evaluation OR mail them to Delaware Humanities (if paper audience evaluations were distributed

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Please note: This catalog is updated once per year. Certain presentations or presenters may no longer be available. Please consult the Delaware Humanities' website for the most up-to-date program offerings, or contact Delaware Humanities.

Culture & Diversity Art & Literature

A Shakespeare Celebration

Lloyd King

ONLY 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

ONLY for Schools (Grades 4-12)

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

Arts at 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 a 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 graduating from college and leading productive lives. 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

Beyond Journaling: How Reflective Writing Can Reduce Stress

Joan DeFattore

Also 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 Society & People

Diversity in Latin America

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko

Also 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.

Media & Democracy Ethics & Politics

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

Joan DeFattore

Also 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

Also 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. Why? That's what this talk is about. For twenty minutes or so, we'll step back from the fray of partisan politics to take a look at the history and ideas behind our current system. After a brief Q and A, we'll spend the rest of the program discussing the following questions: Have we, or have we not, reached a point in the history of our country where political lying has so disrupted our electoral system that the public good requires the establishment of legal limits comparable to those placed on perjury? If so, what should such a policy look like, and what unintended consequences might follow?

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 is a living history presentation and can be adapted to the age or interest of the audience.

Louise du Pont Crowninshield: Preservation Pioneer

Kim Burdick

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

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

Also Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

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

Also 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

Suitable for Schools (Grades 9-12)

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

Also 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.

Hamilton: More Than A Musical

Eric Mease

NOT for K-12 Schools

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.

Oh Say Can You See...

Eric Mease

NOT for K-12 Schools

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.

Stories & Histories

U.S. History

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.

Pass the Rum: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition

Mike Dixon

Also 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.

Stories & Histories

U.S. History

Remember the Ladies

Eric Mease

NOT for K-12 Schools

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

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.

Stories & Histories

World History

Bustles to Bras

Karen Jessee

Also Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

This hour-long visual media 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. This lively show explains how women went from bustles to bell bottoms and why the flapper in between was the modern women. As there is no fashion without foundation, we also peek underneath to see the many 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. After they came back my mother said, "If we are going to die, we are all going to die together." My uncle manned one of the 'little boats' that crossed the Channel and brought back soldiers from Dunkirk. At age 16, my brother volunteered for the Merchant Navy, and he was in many convoys that constantly crossed the Atlantic in spite of German submarines. After 6 years, the war finished, and gradually things returned to normal. For me 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.

Stories & Histories

World History

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

Jean Norvell

NOT for K-12 Schools

Welcome aboard! It's a two month voyage, and our ship is not big. Some of you will live and sleep in the cabin below deck, but others will have to sleep in the Skiff on deck, which also houses the animals. Where you sleep will be determined by the name tag you draw. It determines your social rank. We have no refrigeration, so we need to ensure that the food on board has been properly treated before we set sail. We will also need ample supplies of beer and wine to modify the water. Without them, the water will become scummy and unfit to drink. The crew will not discuss shipboard hygiene with you, but we have to have a talk about 'bodily functions' before we sail. Please anticipate that your modesty will be challenged when using the "seats of ease".

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

Linda De Roche

NOT for K-12 Schools

Throughout World War II, a group of fearless and committed 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 as well as others' have only recently been revealed. "The Lady Was a Spy" 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 World War II.

Stories & Histories

World History

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. Many you may have never heard of. 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 even 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 more 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, some quite hostile to women, to experience for themselves 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 for themselves authentic experience. "Wayward Women Travelers" 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

Also 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

Also Suitable for Schools (Grades 4-12)

Using a how-to approach, this program gives someone interested in exploring their family history 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 the program 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.