



DELAWARE

**HUMANITIES**

**SPEAKERS CATALOGUE**  
2024



DELAWARE

HUMANITIES

## ABOUT US

Founded in 1973, Delaware Humanities is Delaware's independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Delaware Humanities believes diverse human experiences strengthen our communities. We support humanities-based work through our program services and funding.

## ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

Delaware Humanities creates intersectional and engaging programming that helps Delawareans of all ages explore what it means to be human. From speaker presentations on Delaware history to building literacy through family reading, Delaware Humanities programs provide opportunities for lifelong learning throughout the state.

Organizations can host Delaware Humanities programs. Whether you're a library, historic society, museum, or community organization, Delaware Humanities has programs for your audiences.



Scan to learn more!

[dehumanities.org/programs](https://dehumanities.org/programs)

# DELAWARE

# HUMANITIES

The humanities are broad. They help us understand human history, culture, communities, and beliefs. At Delaware Humanities, we use four core concepts to organize our programming: **Health & Environment**, **Culture & Community**, **Media & Democracy**, and **Stories & Histories**.

Each Speakers presentation fits one of these concepts. Look for the symbol at the top of the page.



## **Health & Environment**

Exploring the significance and impact of human behavior on our collective sense of well-being and our physical, cultural, and social surroundings.



## **Culture & Community**

Appreciating both our shared and varied experiences of what it means to be human and how those ideas enrich our connections to one another.



## **Media & Democracy**

Advancing our knowledge of the principles of democracy and justice, their relationship with media, and politics in our daily lives.



## **Stories & Histories**

Understanding the effect the past has on our present, the legacies we hope to carry into the future, and the lessons learned from the mistakes we choose not to repeat.

[\*\*dehumanities.org/programs\*\*](https://dehumanities.org/programs)

# How to Apply for a Speaker

1

Contact the Speaker directly to arrange a date, time, and location for your program. Presentations are **60-75 minutes** long (45-60 minute lecture, followed by time for audience questions), so please allow enough time for the program and questions at the end.

2

Create and log in to your free Foundant account.  
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhf>

3

Submit the online Speaker Request Form at least **four weeks before your program date**.

- Your application may be rejected if you've requested the same program twice in a six month time frame or if you have any outstanding paperwork or payments due to Delaware Humanities.

## After your application is approved, you will...

1

Sign the **Presentation Agreement** agreeing to follow DEH's rules.

2

Submit payment via check to Delaware Humanities

- \$75 for registered non-profits
- \$150 for other organizations
- \$0 for K-12 school classrooms

3

Promote and enjoy your program! You can request digital promotional materials from DEH. With some exceptions, these programs must be free and open to the public.

4

After your program, return any audience evaluations to DEH physically or digitally, and log in to Foundant to complete the final **Program Coordinator Evaluation**.

[dehumanities.org/programs](https://dehumanities.org/programs)

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# THE ORPHAN TRAIN MOVEMENT:

1854-1929

**SPEAKER:  
DONNA AVILES**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 4-12**



## SUMMARY:

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.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Donna Aviles, a resident of Pike Creek, Delaware, is the award-winning author of two books, *Orphan Train To Kansas* and *Peanut Butter For Cupcakes – A True Story From The Great Depression*. Both books are narrative non-fiction, taking place during important periods of American history. As a descendant of an orphan train rider, as well as a member of the National Orphan Train Historical Society of America, Ms. Aviles has extensive knowledge of the Orphan Train Era and is passionate about sharing her expertise with audiences of all ages.



# SEIZED IN SEPTEMBER

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR COMES TO DELAWARE



**SPEAKER:  
KIM BURDICK**

**Suitable for Adults  
Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**



### **SUMMARY:**

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.

### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Kim Burdick is an award-winning public historian who has coordinated a number of major projects including the nine-state and DC Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (2003-2009), and a variety of local seminars and symposiums including "18th Century Abolitionists", co-sponsored by Quaker Hill Preservation Foundation (Spring 2013), "George Washington: Man and Myth" (June 2014) and "Voices of the Past: Stories of the Black Patriots of the American Revolution" (Spring 2017).



# LOUISE DUPONT CROWNINSHIELD: PRESERVATION PIONEER



**SPEAKER:  
KIM BURDICK**

**Suitable for Adults  
Suitable for Schools: Grades 9–12**



## **SUMMARY:**

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.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

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# DIVERSITY IN LATIN AMERICA



**SPEAKER:  
CHARITO CALVACHI-  
MATEYKO**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 1-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

Latin American history, anthropology, geography, language and music disciplines will be blended to present the diversity among the many counties that make up Latin America and their historic presence in the current USA. 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.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Charito Calvachi-Mateyko has spent her professional career studying, mastering and implementing established methods to promote peace and justice within society. She is a restorative justice practitioner and a passionate promoter of racial justice and the Latino culture. She has had rich and diverse experiences such as being a lawyer, a radio show host, an author, a storyteller and a teacher. Using her passion for her work and her ability to forge strong interpersonal connections, Charito has helped heal the wounds of crime, build communities and broaden cultural awareness.



# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



**SPEAKER:  
CHARITO CALVACHI-  
MATEYKO**

**Suitable for Adults**



## **SUMMARY:**

What paradigm can we use to reflect in the human experience of what humanity understand as justice? Is our justice language charged with preconceptions? What ancient principles we carry on in the modern concept of justice in general and criminal justice in particular? A former lawyer turned Restorative Justice professional will discuss the theory of restorative justice as an alternative to the current social construct on justice issues. Ms. Calvachi-Mateyko, gives a brief overview of the challenges presented by the current punitive system and invites the participants to consider a community healing path to handle justice today.

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# THE HISTORY OF ETIQUETTE: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

**SPEAKER:  
LISA STRONG CHASE**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 4-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

The History of Etiquette begins with the Middle Ages, and Erasmus's teaching of classroom etiquette to young men in the Catholic Church classrooms, then progresses to King Louis the XIV's use of the word etiquette, and how the social and etiquette expectations of polite society followed the early settlers of the United States. Audiences will learn how the demonstration of what is known as good manners were a part of survival techniques in the formation of our country! The program will also cover pandemic etiquette (from the Spanish Flu in 1918), to the more recent COVID-19 etiquette, and how that has changed human interaction. The program is very interactive, the audience gets to participate, there are props, and there can be costume changes!

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Lisa Strong Chase, M.B.A, M.Div. is an educator, fundraising professional and a Presbyterian Minister, with the Presbyterian Church -USA. For many years, Lisa directed and taught a leadership development program that focused on manners, etiquette, team building, leadership, and social dance for children and youth through the National League of Junior Cotillions, where she was an award-winning director for her chapter direction, community service, and teaching abilities. It was this program that led her to develop a program called The History of Etiquette: Why We Do What We Do.



# THE RIGHT TO LIE



**SPEAKER:**  
**JOAN DELFATTORE**

**Suitable for Adults**  
**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

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? 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. Have we 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?

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Joan DelFattore holds a Ph.D. in English and an M.S. in clinical psychology from Penn State University. She's professor emerita of English and legal studies at the University of Delaware, where she taught for more than thirty years. Her work on freedom of expression, including three books with Yale University Press and dozens of articles, has won awards from the American Library Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the Spencer Foundation, among others. In addition to giving talks all over the country, she's appeared on dozens of talk shows, notably 20/20, Radio Times, Fresh Air, Talk of the Nation, and the Diane Rehm Show.



# FAKE NEWS, FRAUD, AND HONEST ERROR: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BELIEF

**SPEAKER:  
JOAN DELFATTORE**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

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.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

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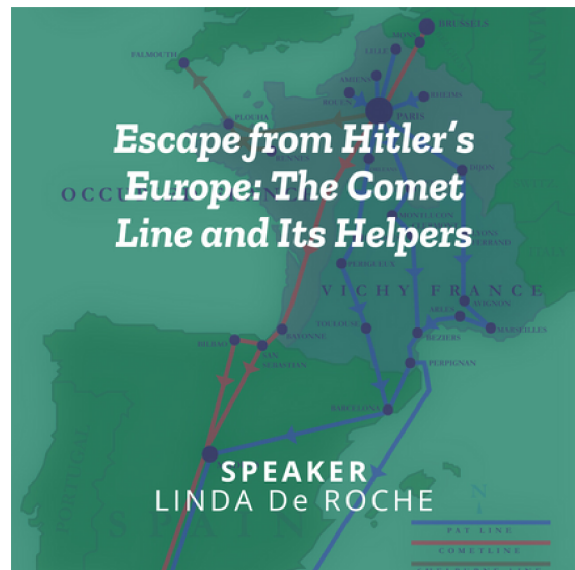


# ESCAPE FROM HITLER'S EUROPE THE COMET LINE AND ITS HELPERS

**SPEAKER:  
LINDA DEROCHE**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

In 1941, an increasing number of Allied aircraft were being shot down in Nazi-occupied Europe. Although most downed airmen were killed or taken prisoner, some evaded capture and were sheltered by Allied sympathizers and the emerging resistance movement to German rule. The road of safety—and to fight again—for these airmen was a treacherous journey by train, by bicycle, and on foot that stretched hundreds of miles from Belgium, across occupied France, to the Pyrenees Mountains at the Spanish border. My presentation will focus primarily on the brave and selfless resistance women, especially the 24-year-old Belgian Andree de Jongh and the American Virginia d'Albert-Lake, who organized and conducted these journeys on this underground railroad, known as the Comet Line, who helped to save nearly 800 airmen.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Linda De Roche is Professor of English and American Studies at Wesley College in Dover, DE, where she teaches courses in American literature and culture and gender studies. A former Fulbright Scholar who conducted research on the American Civil War in England, she holds the doctorate from the University of Notre Dame and has published scholarly works on classic and contemporary writers including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Willa Cather, Edith Wharton, and Mary Higgins Clark. She is currently at work on a study of Jazz Age literary works and a biography of Mrs. Victor Bruce, a contemporary of Amelia Earhart, who in the 1920s and 1930s held land, air, and sea speed and endurance records and once flew solo around the world. Mrs. Victor Bruce reflects Dr. De Roche's interest in the achievements and exploits of unconventional women.



# THE RITCHIE BOYS

## THE ALLIES' SECRET WEAPON

**SPEAKER:  
LINDA DEROCHE**

**Suitable for Adults**

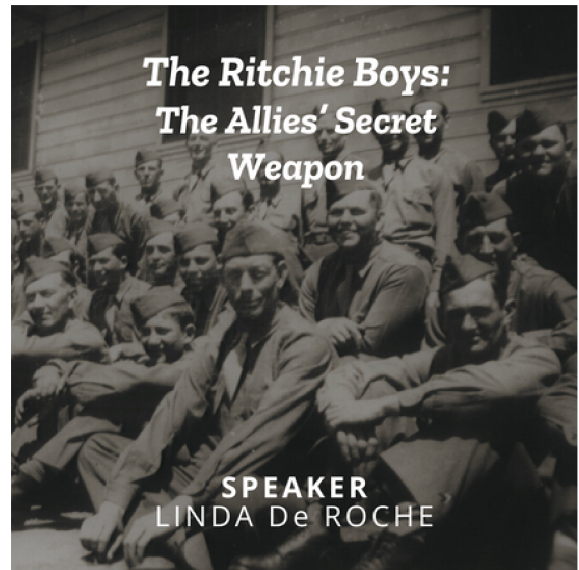
**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

### **SUMMARY:**

The Ritchie Boys, trained in counter-intelligence at Maryland's Camp Ritchie, were essential to Allied victory in World War II. Many were European immigrants or the children of those immigrants; nearly fifteen percent were Jewish; and their fluency in German, French, Italian, Polish, and other European languages as well as their knowledge of local customs and culture was crucial to the war effort, especially after D-Day. They interrogated prisoners of war, acquiring valuable information that contributed to the war effort, and were embedded in Allied combat units, bridging the language barriers that faced British and American soldiers. My Presentation will shine a light on these secret Allied weapons and their contributions to victory in World War II.

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# FIGHTING JIM CROW DISCRIMINATION & SEGREGATION IN HEALTH CARE

**SPEAKER:  
MIKE DIXON**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

This program examines the nature of health care for African Americans prior to the passage of modern Civil Rights legislation in the mid-1960s. As people of color struggled with medical needs, they also grappled on another front—segregation and discrimination in the medical system. The program seeks to understand this little-known history by spotlighting the unexplored story on Delmarva, while placing it in the larger regional and national context. Topics include the contributions of African American doctors, nurses, and caregivers; the advances of the Black hospital system, the unique narrative on Delmarva, the struggles by activists to overcome racism, and the movement for equality in medicine and health.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Mike is a historian and writer whose research and teaching focuses on social history and community studies. For over four decades, he has worked to encourage public interest and participation in the preservation of the past while creating understandings between earlier eras and the present. Addressing his area of scholarship, he has appeared on the Today Show, the National Geographic Channel and in prestigious magazines. Mike enjoys seeking out stories that create a distinctive sense of place. Along the way he finds rich, deep, and varied stories about earlier times in our fascinating towns and communities. He holds graduate degrees in history and the behavioral sciences and teaches as an adjunct professor of history at a number of area universities and colleges. His interest in the study of the past started in the late 1960s when he started volunteering at a local historical society.



# PASS THE RUM: THE RISE AND FALL OF PROHIBITION

**SPEAKER:  
MIKE DIXON**

**Suitable for Adults**

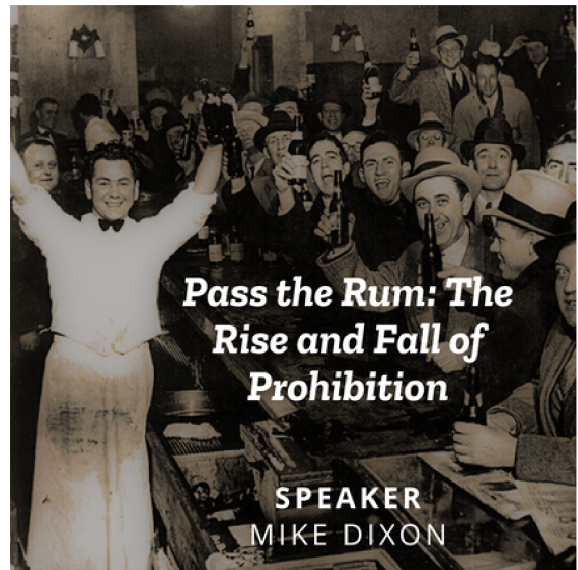
**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

This program looks at the historical attempt to regulate 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.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Mike is a historian and writer whose research and teaching focuses on social history and community studies. For over four decades, he has worked to encourage public interest and participation in the preservation of the past while creating understandings between earlier eras and the present. Addressing his area of scholarship, he has appeared on the Today Show, the National Geographic Channel and in prestigious magazines. Mike enjoys seeking out stories that create a distinctive sense of place. Along the way he finds rich, deep, and varied stories about earlier times in our fascinating towns and communities. He holds graduate degrees in history and the behavioral sciences and teaches as an adjunct professor of history at a number of area universities and colleges. His interest in the study of the past started in the late 1960s when he started volunteering at a local historical society.



# HELPING HANDS OF THE HUMANITIES



**SPEAKER:  
BRIDGET EATMON**

**Suitable for Adults  
Suitable for Schools: Grades 4-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

You don't have to be the product of a negative environment. You have the ability to make a change. The change must start with you and become effective enough to cause change in others. The biggest room on the face of this earth, is the room for improvement.



## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

My name is Bridget R. Eatmon. I am married to Rev. Gregory D. Eatmon Sr. and I am the mother of 5 children, all of which are adults. I am a breast cancer survivor. I hold a B.A. degree in Criminal Justice from LaSalle University, a Masters of Jurisprudence in Health Law from Widener School of Law/Delaware Law School, a Post Graduate Certification in Restorative Justice and Conflict Management from Arcadia University and a Ph.D. from Northcentral University in Criminal Justice with a specialty in Homeland Security. I now work for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in the Homicide Division.



# MARY ANN SHADD CARY: DELAWARE'S FORGOTTEN DAUGHTER

**SPEAKER:  
LORA ENGLEHART**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 1-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

Mary Ann Shadd Cary was born to free blacks in Wilmington in 1823. At a time when women's talents were confined to the home, Mary Ann became a teacher, writer, staunch abolitionist, suffragist, the first black woman to publish a newspaper in North America, the first female admitted to Howard Law School and one of our country's first female lawyers. On the 200th anniversary of her birth, learn about her amazing life, her Delaware ancestors (dating before the Revolutionary War) and see how Delaware is finally recognizing the importance of this "diamond" of the "Diamond State."

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Lora Englehart has always been interested in American History, and in recent years has become fascinated by the wealth of little known *herstory* in our country. A simple article about freedom in the July 4, 1996 edition of the News Journal launched Englehart on a journey of discovery into the life of Wilmington-born Mary Ann Shadd Cary. Along the way, Englehart has learned about other incredible women and men who have made important contributions to our society, but were not included in history books because of their gender or race. It is an honor to share a piece of our story with you.



# WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT NANCY DREW



**SPEAKER:  
LORA ENGLEHART**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 6-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

The 1930's icon changed the way girls and women were viewed in literature and beyond. This presentation shines a light on the multiple factors that ignited the instant popularity of Nancy Drew, the investigator who changed girlhood for millions of readers. Bravery and independence mixed with style and substance, Nancy Drew shaped the decades ahead with her leadership and perseverance. With this program, you'll learn behind-the-scenes "secrets" about the writing world, the publishing industry and the drama behind Nancy Drew's author "Carolyn Keene." Nancy Drew has also evolved through the ages; join us to see how the stories have remained relevant to today's audience to include TV shows, movies, and games, and spinoffs. Most importantly, we will talk about your relationship and memories of Nancy Drew!

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

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# WHY THE WORLD NEEDS ANTHROPOLOGISTS



**SPEAKER:**  
**CARLA GUERRÓN**  
**MONTERO**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

Anthropology as a discipline grapples with a straight forward yet exceptionally complex question: What does it mean to be human? Due to its broad scope and holistic approach, the discipline of anthropology is particularly equipped to offer potential solutions to world problems, such as climate change, migration, racial and social inequalities, and the ethics of artificial intelligence and automation, among others.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Carla Guerrón Montero is a cultural and applied anthropologist trained in the United States and Latin America, and specialized in the anthropology of tourism, the anthropology of food, and the African diaspora. Professor Guerrón Montero is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Delaware, with joint appointments in Latin American and Iberian Studies, Africana Studies and Women and Gender Studies. She received a PhD degree in Cultural Anthropology and Latin American Studies from the University of Oregon; a Master of Arts degree in Applied Anthropology from Oregon State University (United States), and a Licenciatura degree in Socio-cultural Anthropology from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (Quito-Ecuador).



# THOSE ALLURING ACCESSORIES



**SPEAKER:  
KAREN JESSEE**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 6-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

Give yourself points as you guess the purpose and learn the history of women's accessories from the past, many of which 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, 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 maybe even your own family heirlooms!



## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Karen Jessee, a veteran teacher of English, theatre and writing was nominated twice for Teacher of the Year and was the winner of the NBC National Teacher Award. A contributing writer to several publications, Karen has won awards for her articles and scripts from the Delaware Press Association and the National Federation of Press Women. Trips to England for fashion study inspired her programs that have been presented to schools, libraries, churches, women's groups, and historical societies.



# BUSTLES TO BRAS



**SPEAKER:  
KAREN JESSEE**

**Suitable for Adults  
Suitable for Schools: Grades 4-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

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.



## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

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# ARTS AS PREVENTION



**SPEAKER:  
EUNICE LAFATE**

**Suitable for Adults**



## **SUMMARY:**

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.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

As an educator, artist, former banker, human services administrator, writer, story-teller, and public speaker on Folk Art and Culture, Eunice LaFate has impacted the lives of countless people by sharing her talents, her art, and her respect for diversity.

Born in Jamaica, LaFate is a self-taught artist whose early works were influenced by the landscape, tones and culture of her island heritage. In transitioning to life in her new environment, LaFate’s work has evolved to include themes of human diversity and cultural heritage.



# FOLK ART & CULTURE

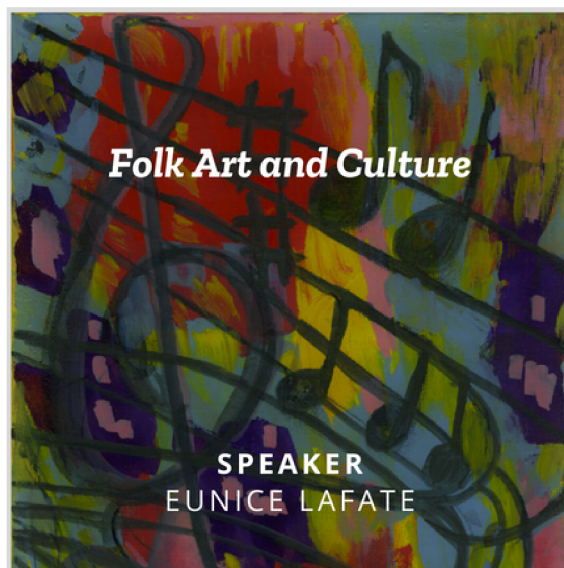


**SPEAKER:  
EUNICE LAFATE**

**Suitable for Adults  
Suitable for Schools: Grades 4-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

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!



## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

As an educator, artist, former banker, human services administrator, writer, story-teller, and public speaker on Folk Art and Culture, Eunice LaFate has impacted the lives of countless people by sharing her talents, her art, and her respect for diversity.

Born in Jamaica, LaFate is a self-taught artist whose early works were influenced by the landscape, tones and culture of her island heritage. In transitioning to life in her new environment, LaFate's work has evolved to include themes of human diversity and cultural heritage.





# PRESERVING WAR LETTERS (AND OTHER FAMILY MISSIVES): TOUCHSTONES OF TIME

**SPEAKER:  
NANCY E LYNCH**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

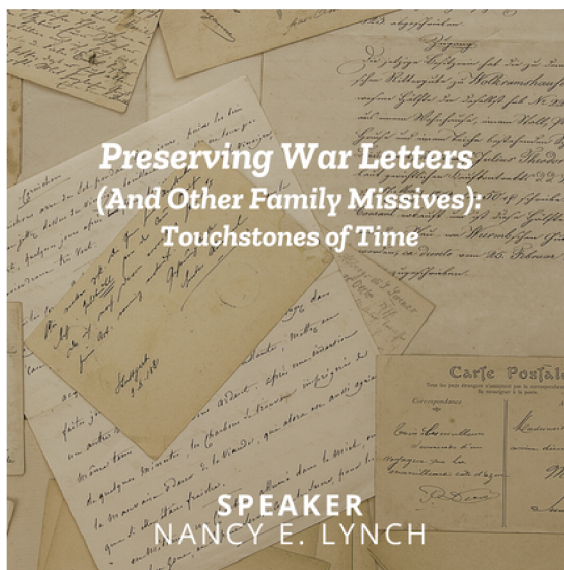
## **SUMMARY:**

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.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Journalist Nancy E. Lynch is the author of the award-winning social history, *Vietnam Mailbag, Voices From the War: 1968-1972*.

Lynch's 456-page book is based on the nearly 1,000 letters and hundreds of pictures her popular newspaper column received from our troops on the front lines during the Vietnam War. In her final column in December 1972 she promised "her guys" she would some day put all their correspondence and pictures in a book to honor them. Released on Veterans Day 2008, *Vietnam Mailbag* fulfills her pledge.



# VIETNAM MAILBAG



**SPEAKER:  
NANCY E LYNCH**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

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.

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Journalist Nancy E. Lynch is the author of the award-winning social history, *Vietnam Mailbag, Voices From the War: 1968-1972*.

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# OH SAY CAN YOU SEE...



## THE ORIGIN OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

**SPEAKER:  
ERIC MEASE**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

### SUMMARY:

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.



### ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Eric Mease is an American History buff with a specific interest in the Early American period. He is a retired paralegal from the DuPont Company’s Intellectual Property group, a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor’s degree in Journalism, and a Master’s degree in Arts and Liberal Studies from the University of Delaware. Eric is a member of the board of trustees of the Historical Society of Cecil County and a past member of the board of directors of the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, both based in Elkton, Maryland. He has taught continuing education classes around a wide range of topics including the American Civil War, America’s Founding Fathers and Mothers, the Declaration of Independence, Alexander Hamilton, and many more at Cecil College, Harford CC, and Del Tech.



# REMEMBER THE LADIES



**SPEAKER:  
ERIC MEASE**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 1-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

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 Adams's wish that we "remember the ladies," including both Elizabeth Hamilton and Abigail Adams, as well as Martha Washington and Dolley Madison.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Eric Mease is an American History buff with a specific interest in the Early American period. He is a retired paralegal from the DuPont Company's Intellectual Property group, a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in Journalism, and a Master's degree in Arts and Liberal Studies from the University of Delaware. Eric is a member of the board of trustees of the Historical Society of Cecil County and a past member of the board of directors of the Historic Elk Landing Foundation, both based in Elkton, Maryland. He has taught continuing education classes around a wide range of topics including the American Civil War, America's Founding Fathers and Mothers, the Declaration of Independence, Alexander Hamilton, and many more at Cecil College, Harford CC, and Del Tech.



# MAD HATTERS AND WHITE ELEPHANTS SURPRISING ORIGINS OF COMMON PHRASES

**SPEAKER:  
MARGARET OPASTA**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 4–12**



## **SUMMARY:**

Saved by the Bell, Baker's Dozen, It Costs an Arm and a Leg, Wild Goose Chase...we all know what these everyday expressions mean, but where did they start and how has their usage evolved? Answering these questions for familiar phrases we all know and use is sometimes astonishing, often amusing, and always painlessly educational. My audience-interactive program will open a picture window on the exciting world of language.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Margaret Opsata is an award-winning writer and editor in love with language. She has over 30 years of experience writing and editing articles for magazines in fields like personal finance, retail marketing, and historic preservation. She also has taught English at Wilmington University and the Terry Campus of Delaware Technical Community College.



# BEING BURIED ALIVE: THE FEAR THAT SWEEPED 19TH CENTURY AMERICA



**SPEAKER:  
MARGARET OPASTA**

**Suitable for Adults  
Suitable for Schools: Grades 9–12**



## **SUMMARY:**

The line dividing life from death was not clearly defined in the 1800's. In the rush to bury a corpse quickly, before contagious disease could spread, people who were comatose, catatonic, sedated, or just plain drunk were sometimes mistaken for dead. Factual and fictional accounts of unfortunate souls awakening in their coffin, combined with medical disagreements about how to test definitively for absence of life, created widespread panic and led to imaginative inventions for preventing premature burial.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Margaret Opsata is an award-winning writer and editor in love with language. She has over 30 years of experience writing and editing articles for magazines in fields like personal finance, retail marketing, and historic preservation. She also has taught English at Wilmington University and the Terry Campus of Delaware Technical Community College.



# WHALING ON THE HIGH SEAS: THAR SHE BLOWS!

**SPEAKER:  
STEVE RENZI**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

In our nation's history, whaling ships sailed around the world searching for whales. The whales were hunted primarily for oil to light lanterns and to make candles, corsets and perfume. In the 1830s and 40s, Delaware went whaling with the formation of the Wilmington Whaling Company. This presentation tells the story of whaling and the whales' subsequent slow recovery from the brink of extinction.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

I love to tell stories by spoken word, writing or photography and the best stories are those that connect us to the people, places and culture of the area we live in. Delaware has so many great stories that have been overlooked, forgotten about, or with new research and understanding need to be re-told again. I am a magazine writer/photographer and a photography teacher and am always searching for new unexplored stories to tell. It's allowed me to stay curious and my subject matter has ranged from "raising chickens," to "dropping the atomic bomb." As a speaker, I prefer to talk about ordinary people during historical events, doing extraordinary things. History is all around us, we just don't know it; sometimes we can find it in the back of a dresser drawer.



# THE BIG HOUSE

## NEW CASTLE COUNTY WORKHOUSE

### 1901-1970

**SPEAKER:**  
**STEVE RENZI**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 9-12**

### **SUMMARY:**

This story is about the fascinating history of the New Castle County Workhouse that includes its opening as a reform institution in 1901, it was the site of a lynching, the hiring of the first women prison guards in the United States and a decade-long experiment in the 1920s where the inmates ran the institution.

### **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

I love to tell stories by spoken word, writing or photography and the best stories are those that connect us to the people, places and culture of the area we live in. Delaware has so many great stories that have been overlooked, forgotten about, or with new research and understanding need to be re-told again. I am a magazine writer/photographer and a photography teacher and am always searching for new unexplored stories to tell. It's allowed me to stay curious and my subject matter has ranged from "raising chickens," to "dropping the atomic bomb." As a speaker, I prefer to talk about ordinary people during historical events, doing extraordinary things. History is all around us, we just don't know it; sometimes we can find it in the back of a dresser drawer.



# AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE CIVIL WAR



**SPEAKER:  
KATHY TRUSTY**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 1-12**

## **SUMMARY:**

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.



## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Kathy Trusty is an historian, writer, and Black history educator. She always loved history and became enthusiastic about Black history when she received a grant to document the history of African Americans in Paterson, New Jersey, where she lived before moving to Delaware.

She is the owner of Black History Ed Zone LLC, a company that produces Black history products to facilitate the inclusion of Black history in the classroom. She is also a Black history consultant for ClickView, an Australian company that produces educational videos for K-12 students. In 2021 she wrote the script for the company's Juneteenth Video which received rave reviews from customers around the world.



# BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION: FIGHTING SEGREGATION IN COURT

**SPEAKER:  
KATHY TRUSTY**

**Suitable for Adults**

**Suitable for Schools: Grades 4-12**



## **SUMMARY:**

Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall and other great civil rights attorneys believed the fight for civil and equal rights should take place in the courts. This presentation will discuss their most famous case: *Brown v Board of Education*. Audiences will learn more about the lawyers behind the case and their strategy for proving that separate but equal, when it comes to race segregation, was not constitutional. This presentation will also examine the five cases that made up *Brown v Board of Education*. It will delve into the actions and circumstances that led to each case and how five cases from around the country became one of the most important cases in the 20th century and resulted in a United States Supreme Court Ruling to end racial segregation in public schools.

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER:**

Kathy Trusty is an historian, writer, and Black history educator. She always loved history and became enthusiastic about Black history when she received a grant to document the history of African Americans in Paterson, New Jersey, where she lived before moving to Delaware.

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