



DELAWARE  
Humanities  
FORUM

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# ON THE WAY

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware Humanities Forum

## People You Should Know in Dover

Marking Black History and Women's History Months

What do Private James H. Elbert and the Gibson Girl Friday have in common?

You'll find them both in Dover this winter for the Delaware Humanities Forum's "People You Should Know" series at the Schwartz Center for the Arts.

This new, six-part series includes first-person reenactments, pictorial histories, and engaging conversations to help mark Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March. Each presentation is open free to the public, and begins at 7:30 p.m. on consecutive Tuesdays in McNinch Hall at the Schwartz Center. Light refreshments will be served. The Schwartz Center is located at the corner of State and North streets in downtown Dover. Parking is free in any city, county, or state parking lot (the closest are on North Street). Spots are available on streets around the theater as well.

The series begins on **February 14** with popular local re-enactor Valerie Boyer performing as abolitionist Charlotte Forten Grinke. An African-American woman born in 1837 and a descendant of slaves, Ms. Grinke was born into a family that had been free for four generations and by the 1850s was residing comfortably in Philadelphia society. Ms. Grinke was a writer, teacher, and musician who worked to establish equality for blacks and to abolish slavery. Through songs of the period and excerpts from her personal diary, you will learn more about this remarkable woman.

On **February 21**, Willis Phelps Jr. presents a first-person interpretation of Private James H. Elbert, C Company, 9th United States Colored Troops. A resident of Pottstown, a black settlement near Delaware City, PA, Elbert enlisted in the Union Army in 1865 as a substitute for a white man in return for a \$75-\$100 bonus. PA, Elbert's company fought in many battles, which took him all the way to Florida. His story includes tales of battle wounds, a charge and trial for desertion, and many acts of bravery.



**February 28** brings a "Pictorial History of the Negro Leagues," with Chantaspuran and presenter Ron Whittington. This lecture and slide program explores the journey of baseball, from post Civil War through the mid-20th century. Mr. Whittington will take the audience from Sol White and Fleet Walker, who played baseball before segregation, to Judy Johnson and the segregated leagues that began in the first decade of the 20th century, and through the integration of baseball in mid-century with Jackie Robinson.

March brings Women's History Month and a look at past lifestyles, women that challenged the status quo, and an exploration of what makes us laugh.

On **March 7**, "The Gibson Girl Friday Meets the Victorian Lady" with costume historian Barbara Meyer Darlin. As she changes identities onstage, Ms. Darlin compares the lifestyles and fashions of a wealthy society lady and a working girl at the turn of the century. As she transforms from an office clerk to a socialite, Ms. Darlin shows the audience two completely different fashion looks while exploring women's role in Victorian society, daily routines, social customs and etiquette.



Clara Small examines the changing "Role of African-American Women in Society" from the colonial era to the present day on **March 14**. Dr. Small's lecture includes discussion about African-American women who stepped out of the traditional role of nurturer and homemaker. Individual women such as Phyllis Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, and Rosa Parks are highlighted.

On **March 21**, explore "What's Funny? Humor in All the Right Places" with popular local lecturer Lee Musolf. According to Ms. Musolf, we love to laugh and we all know that humor is good for us. So what makes us laugh? Are we aware that women have played an important role in the creation of humor? With the aid of CDs, incidents, and videos, the audience will explore a variety of humorous pieces, both in literature and in song.

The Delaware Humanities Forum presents the "People You Should Know" series with support from Wesley College, Elderswood Village of Dover and the Dover Post Company. For more information, contact the forum at (800) 752-3060 or (302) 657-0650. ♦

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### NEW BOOKS

- Annual Report
- Meet Your Speakers Bureau
- New Council Members

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The Delaware Humanities Forum helps Delawareans reach a fuller understanding of the connections among people, cultures, and ideas through project initiatives, grant making, and educational outreach. Through the Forum's grants to nonprofit organizations and by its own direct initiatives, programs in the humanities build bridges to connect the daily life and work of people to the universe of human experience, thought, and inspiration. As an advocate and catalyst for the humanities, the Forum brings together the public and humanities specialists to focus on issues of public interest and concern, and links cultural, educational and civic institutions into a network serving people throughout the entire state. The Forum promotes the humanities as a resource for all Delawareans.

## Grant Support Available for Programs in Response to September 11

The governing Council of the Delaware Humanities Forum has designated \$6,000 in grant money available this year for programs and projects in response to the events of September 11, 2001. Grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded to Delaware nonprofit organizations.

Programs should be designed to help Delawareans understand "Why us?" Eligible programs include (but are not limited to) lectures, presentations, and panel discussions. Eligible topics include (but are not limited to) historical and religious background behind

the events, how the U.S. response to the events might affect civil liberties, reinforcing and perpetuating prejudices, mainstream Muslim beliefs, or the ethics and morality of dying for your convictions.

These "Opportunity Grants" are available to Delaware nonprofit organizations for humanities-based programs that will be open to the general public. Complete grant guidelines are available on the Forum's website at [www.dhf.org](http://www.dhf.org) or by calling (302) 657-0650. ♦

## Executive Director Leaves the Forum

The Delaware Humanities Council has accepted the resignation of Charlotte D. Staelin from her position as Executive Director effective December 21, 2001. Dr. Staelin said her decision to step-down was influenced by increased caretaking responsibilities for an immediate family member.

"Charlotte did an admirable job leading the Forum to consider new and broader possibilities for our future. She assembled an excellent staff who are quite capable of keeping the organization

running smoothly as we look for a new executive director. I am sorry to see Charlotte leave us so soon. Our prayers and best wishes go with her," Council Chair Dr. Jeffrey Mask said.

The Council has appointed Stephanie Staats Lonie to the position of Chief-of-Staff during this period of transition at the Forum. In addition, she will continue to direct development and communications functions. ♦

## New VSP Talks Available for Schools

The Forum is pleased to welcome new scholars and topics into its Visiting Scholars Program after auditions held in the fall. The VSP is a way to broaden the world of knowledge in the classroom at no charge to the school, by enabling teachers to supplement a particular unit of study with scholar visits to their classrooms. The presentations are tailored to the grade level, always encourage dialogue, and often include interactive components such as role-playing and artifact study.

The Forum offers about 200 different talks for grades 1-12 by scholars in English, History, Geography, Civics, and Enrichment. Some of the recently added talks include, "The History of African American Writing from Slave Narratives to Hip Hop," "Learning About Language through the Performing Arts," "Israel/Palestine: The Human Side of Conflict and Occupation," and a first-person portrait of William Owen for "Black Delawarean Participation in the Civil War."

Teachers will soon receive an updated list of VSP talks from the Forum. A new catalog will be produced and mailed this summer to help educators plan for the new school year. For more information, contact Program Officer J. Valorie Hailey at (302) 657-0650 or email [vhailey@dca.net](mailto:vhailey@dca.net). The VSP is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Delaware. ♦



# Events Calendar

The Delaware Humanities Forum funds the following events in whole or in part. While we make every attempt to ensure accuracy we urge you to call ahead to confirm details before attending an event, unless otherwise noted, events are free to the public.

## FEBRUARY

February 5 – 7 p.m. | **"Charlotte Forten Grinke"** by Valerie Boyer, Hockessin Public Library, Hockessin. (302) 239-5160

February 7 – 12:15 p.m. | **"Dr. Charles Albert Tindley, Delaware Rhythmist Extraordinaire"** by Celestine Light, Trinity Episcopal Church, Wilmington. (302) 652-8605

February 7 – 2 p.m. | **"Delaware in World War II"** by Gary Wray, Brandywine Assisted Living at Seaside Pointe, Rehoboth. (302) 226-8750

February 7 – 8 p.m. | **"The Art of Storytelling From the Brandywine to the Bay"** by Ed Okonski, Newport Temple, Newport, sponsored by Inoue Lodge No. 31 AFWAM. (302) 757-5792

February 9 – Noon. | **"Delaware Women of the Young Republic"** by Suzanne N. Fox. Call for location, sponsored by Head of Elk Chapter NSDAR. (410) 398-5086

February 11 – 7 p.m. | **"History of the Negro Baseball Leagues"** by Ron Whittington, Bear Public Library, Bear. (302) 838-3303

February 12 – 7 p.m. | **"Delaware Black History: Past and Present"** by James Newson, Bear Public Library, Bear. (302) 838-3303

February 12 – 7 p.m. | **"Charlotte Forten Grinke"** by Valerie Boyer, Downs Cultural Center, Wilmington. (302) 575-0290

February 14 – 7:30 p.m. | **"People You Should Know – Charlotte Forten Grinke"** by Valerie Boyer, Schwartz Center for the Arts, Dover. (302) 657-0650

February 15 – 8 p.m. | **"Private James H. Elbert"** by Willis Phelps Jr., St. Peter's Parish Hall, Lewes, sponsored by Lewes Historical Society. (302) 645-7870

February 19 – 7 p.m. | **"Slavery and Freedom in Delaware 1639-1863"** by William H. Williams, Seaford District Library, Seaford. (302) 629-2524

February 19 – 7 p.m. | **"Private James H. Elbert"** by Willis Phelps Jr., Hockessin Public Library, Hockessin. (302) 239-5160

February 21 – 11 a.m. | **"The Role of African American Women in Society"** by Clara Small, Bethel AME Church, Milton, sponsored by American Association of University Women Georgetown Branch. (302) 684-8710

February 21 – Noon. | **"The Art of Storytelling From the Brandywine to the Bay"** by Ed Okonski, University and Wood Club, Wilmington, sponsored by American Association of University Women. (302) 428-0939

February 21 – 7:30 p.m. | **"The G&D Canal"** by Michael Dixon, Cokesbury Village, Hockessin.

February 21 – 7:30 p.m. | **"People You Should Know – Private James H. Elbert, United States Colored Troops"** by Willis Phelps Jr., Schwartz Center for the Arts, Dover. (302) 657-0650

February 28 – 7 p.m. | **"Pablo Picasso: An Artist for All Seasons"** by Sandra L. Denney, Dandy Chapel, Wilmington, sponsored by Methodist Country House. (302) 426-8136

February 28 – 7:30 p.m. | **"People You Should Know – Pictorial History of the Negro Leagues"** by Ron Whittington, Schwartz Center for the Arts, Dover. (302) 657-0650

## MARCH

March 1 – 7 p.m. | **"The Art of Storytelling From the Brandywine to the Bay"** by Ed Okonski, White Clay Creek State Park Nature Center, Newark. (302) 368-6560

March 7 – 7:30 p.m. | **"People You Should Know – The Gibson Girl Meets the Victorian Lady"** by Barbara Meyer Darlin, Schwartz Center for the Arts, Dover. (302) 657-0650

March 8 | **"Almost Forgotten: Delaware Women Artists 1900-1950"** an exhibition at the Biggs Museum of American Art, Federal Street, Dover. Through May 26. Call for a schedule of guest lecturers. (302) 674-2111

March 9 – 11:30 a.m. | **"The Beliefs of the Old Order Amish"** by Thomas Gallagher, Blue Coat Inn, Dover, sponsored by Colored Haven Chapter DAR. (302) 736-6621

March 13 – 7:15 p.m. | **"The Native People of Delaware: Indian Culture and History"** by Marshall Becker, Methodist Manor House, Seaford, sponsored by Seaford District Library. (302) 629-2524

March 14 – 7:30 p.m. | **"People You Should Know – The Role of African American Women in Society"** by Clara Small, Schwartz Center for the Arts, Dover. (302) 657-0650

March 15 – Time TBA. | **"Immigration"** by Mark Miller, The Gallery at Perkins Student Center, University of Delaware, Newark, sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Council on Latin American Studies. (302) 831-2597

March 18 – 10 a.m. | **"Comedy Tonight: Humor and Song, a Whimsical Combination"** by Lee Mossell, Mid-County Center, Wilmington. (302) 995-6728

March 20 – 6:15 p.m. | **"The World Ocean: Its History, Uses and Abuses"** by Gerard J. Mangione, Greenville Country Club, Wilmington, sponsored by Delaware Chapter of the English-Speaking Union. (610) 388-7151

March 20 – 7 p.m. | **"The Role of African American Women in Society"** by Clara Small, Bear Public Library, Bear. (302) 838-3303

March 21 – 12:15 p.m. | **"A History of the American Musical Theater"** by Lillian Balick, Trinity Episcopal Church, Wilmington. (302) 652-8605

March 21 – 7:30 p.m. | **"People You Should Know – What's Funny? Humor in All the Right Places"** by Lee Mossell, Schwartz Center for the Arts, Dover. (302) 657-0650

March 29 – 7:15 p.m. | **"We Suffered to Make You Free: Memories of a Delaware Continental Soldier"** by Jack Gardner, Methodist Manor House, Seaford, sponsored by Seaford District Library. (302) 629-2524

## APRIL

April 2 – 7:15 p.m. | **"They Make Us Laugh: Humor in All the Right Places"** by Lee Mossell, Methodist Manor House, Seaford, sponsored by Seaford District Library. (302) 629-2524

April 4 – 1 p.m. | **"Stories of Delaware"** by Ed Okonski. Call for location, sponsored by Women's Club of Kennettick. (302) 436-5790

April 5 – 1:30 p.m. | **"The Myths, Legends and Uniqueness of Delaware History"** by James R. Soles, Brandywine Assisted Living at Seaside Pointe, Rehoboth. (302) 226-8750

April 5 – 7:15 p.m. | **"The Myths, Legends and Uniqueness of Delaware History"** by James R. Soles, Methodist Manor House, Seaford, sponsored by Seaford District Library. (302) 629-2524

April 17 – 7 p.m. | **"Charles Dickens Tonight"** by Joseph Summers, Bear Library, Bear. (302) 838-3303

April 17 – 7:30 p.m. | **"The Music of Rogers and Hammerstein"** by Lillian Balick, Greenville Country Club, Greenville, sponsored by the Delaware Chapter of the English-Speaking Union. (610) 388-7151

April 19 – 7:15 p.m. | **"Delaware in World War II"** by Gary Wray, Methodist Manor House, Seaford, sponsored by Seaford District Library. (302) 629-2524

April 22 – 10:30 a.m. | **"The Music of Rogers and Hammerstein"** by Lillian Balick, Mid-County Center, Wilmington. (302) 995-6728

## Ask Your Legislators to Support the Forum's Work

The Delaware Humanities Forum has requested Grant-in-Aid assistance from the General Assembly for the Visiting Scholars Program, Speakers Bureau, Scholar in Residence, Chautauques, and special programs such as a "Community Yearbook" project. These educational programs for the people of Delaware bring the humanities to communities throughout the state, and encourage reflection, insight, and discussion across age, race, background and place.

We need your help to make sure our legislators know that our programs are important to you. If you have benefited from these programs, or hope to in the future, please write a note to your legislators to tell them so. Without state support, the Forum's programs would have to be reduced drastically.

For a list of Delaware legislators, check online at [www.legis.state.de.us](http://www.legis.state.de.us) or call the Department of Elections: (302) 577-3464 New Castle County, (302) 739-4458 Kent County, (302) 856-5367 Sussex County.

# PEOPLE, CULTURES & IDEAS

## "American Innovators" Theme for 2002 Chautauqua

The Delaware Humanities Forum will present its sixth annual outdoor Chautauqua tent show June 23-26, 2002 at Rehoboth Elementary School. The theme this year is "American Innovators." Performances begin at 7 p.m. each night, and feature musical entertainment and historical reenactments. Admission is free and open to all ages. In addition, the Chautauquans will be available to schools and libraries for workshops throughout the week.

**Sunday, June 23 – Benjamin Banneker.** Hailed as the first African-American inventor, Banneker is responsible for the complete layout of the streets, parks, and major buildings of our nation's capital, Washington D.C. A farmer, engineer, surveyor, city planner, astronomer, mathematician, inventor, author, and social critic, Banneker's inventions range from wheat crop design to wood clocks, and the publication of a Farmer's Almanac from 1792-1802.

**Monday, June 24 – Thomas Edison.** This famous inventor of the first electric light bulb transformed the modern world. Also credited with inventing the movie projector and the phonograph, Edison's "invention factory" model has been copied by businesses

since its design – a model where products are invented, built and shipped from the same complex.

**Tuesday, June 25 – Clara Barton.** This heroine of the Civil War and founder of the Red Cross risked her life to save others, and overcame both personal obstacles and society's narrow view of women's roles to pursue her heart's work – battlefield nursing. Audience members journey back to the Civil War by portraying Yankees and Rebels, nay-sayers and believers.

**Wednesday, June 26 – Zora Neale Hurston.** This renowned writer of the Harlem Renaissance period is probably best known for her novel, "Their Eyes Were Watching God." The most prolific African-American woman writer of her time, Hurston was a significant figure in Harlem society. She fascinated groups with tales of her childhood and shocked others with her "outrageous" behavior, which included smoking in public. Academically, her particular interest was anthropology and folklore.

For information about the Chautauqua event, scheduling a workshop, or sponsorship opportunities, call (302) 657-0650.

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