



PROGRAMS

Montana Conversations & Speakers in the Schools 2018-2019

Humanities **MONTANA**
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311 Brantly ■ Missoula, MT 59812 ■ 406.243.6022
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Montana Conversations & Speakers in the Schools

Our Montana Conversations and Speakers in the Schools programs offer communities, nonprofit organizations, schools, and individual classrooms the opportunity to explore ideas and issues through a rich variety of humanities-focused public programs. We have selected speakers and programs through a statewide call for proposals and careful review process, in order to assure the highest quality. Funding is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, The Montana Office of Public Instructions, Montana Cultural Trust, and private donations.

Sponsor Requirements

Organization: A **\$75 co-payment** per program is required from the sponsoring organization at the time of the application. Payment can be made online with a credit card or by mailing a check. Upon written request, co-payment waivers will be given for small or disadvantaged organizations. If Humanities Montana declines to fund an application, the co-payment will be returned.

Organizations can book three speakers per year. Speakers frequently give multiple talks in one trip, especially when community organizations partner with schools to reach wider audiences. Multiple presentations on a single trip are only counted as one of your three programs.

K-12 Schools: These programs are free to schools; no copayment is required. Schools are encouraged to ask speakers to talk with multiple classes or for a school-wide assembly. We also encourage teachers to partner with local community organizations, like the public library or museum, to have evening programs for parents and other community members. Schools are limited to three speakers per year, but speakers can give multiple presentations in one trip.

All speaker travel involving a round trip of more than 800 miles **must** include multiple programs in the same community or in other communities along the route. Humanities Montana staff can help suggest other sponsors.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Select a topic and speaker in advance of the proposed date. Contact the speaker directly to see whether he or she is available on your program date.
2. Reserve a program meeting room.
3. Fill out the online application and make co-payment (if required) **at least** four weeks before your program. Late applications will not be approved.
4. Begin keeping a record of the names, hours and value of volunteer time. This information is required in the online final report due two weeks after your program occurs.
5. Wait for Humanities Montana award letter, usually about a week after we receive your application. Funding is limited and not all requests are approved.
6. Use the press release and photo of the speaker available in the online catalog to promote your program.
7. Call your speaker again one week before your program to confirm all details.
8. Complete the online final report. The value of volunteer time you and other volunteers spend on the project and the value of the venue space is your cost share contribution. The final report also requires audience numbers and overall evaluation of the program.

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CONVERSATIONS BY THEME

(DESCRIPTIONS FOLLOW)

NATIVE PEOPLES

- Before the Horse: Northern Rockies Lifestyles** with Kae Cheatham
Living with the Land with Louise Fischer
Blackfeet Language and Stories with Robert Hall
Song of the Dawn Priests: A History of the Crow People with Franco Littlelight
Washington D.C. and Tribal Councils: Cross-Cultural Politics with James Steele, Jr.
The Métis in Montana History with Nicholas Vrooman
Apsaalooke Respect, Enrollment, and Contemporary Education with Dana Wilson

MONTANA AND WESTERN HISTORY

- Chinese in Montana: Our Forgotten Pioneers** with Ellen Baumler
Profiles of African American Montanans with Ellen Baumler
Jeannette Rankin—American Conscience Living History with Mary Jane Bradbury
Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of Nancy Cooper Russell with Mary Jane Bradbury
Me and Martha: Intimate Reflections of Dora DuFran about the Real Life Calamity Jane with Mary Jane Bradbury
Evelyn's Water: The Woman Who Sang with Ferlin Husky with Philip Burgess
Penny Postcards and Prairie Flowers with Philip Burgess
1988 Yellowstone Fires with John Clayton
Montana 1864-1889 with Ken Egan
Alcohol, Corsets, and the Vote: A Conversation with Mary Long Alderson with Anne Foster
Hand-Raised: The Historic Barns of Montana with Chere Jiusto
Bold Women in Montana History with Beth Judy
Meagher of the Sword: Montana's First Acting Governor with Neal Lewing
Singing the Westward Legacy with Neal Lewing
Home, Home on the Ranch with Bill Rossiter
A Visit with an 1879 American Fur Co. Trader with Greg Smith
Homestead Dreams with Hal Stearns
Montana Towns: Then, Now, Tomorrow with Hal Stearns
Larger Than Life Leaders in Montana History with Hal Stearns
The Corps of Discovery: Tomahawks, Rifles, and Food for Thought with Stephen Sylvester

NATION AND WORLD

- American Justice: Criminal Justice and the Era of Mass Incarceration** with Jacob Coolidge
Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy with Shahid Haque
Do We Know Our Fellow Americans? with Ambrin F. Masood
Cultural Diversity and Muslims in America with Ambrin F. Masood
Brother Can You Spare a Dime? Laughin' to Keep from Cryin' with Bill Rossiter

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

- The Veteran's Experience and Military Culture** with Elizabeth Barrs
UFOs and Extraterrestrials in Montana with Joan Bird
Philosophy: What is it Good for? with Marisa Diaz-Waian

The Art of Meaningful Conversation: Let's Talk About What's Important with Lowell Jaeger
Express to Speak with Tahj Kjelland
Tell Us Something Storytelling Workshop with Marc Moss
The Resurgent Wild with Christopher J. Preston
From the Atom to the Atmosphere: Replacing Nature with a Synthetic World with Christopher J. Preston
Student Success and Access to Higher Education with James Steele, Jr.
What Happened to the News? with Dennis Swibold

LITERATURE

WordSongs: Bringing Poetry to Life with Dave Caserio
Developing Community Literary Programs with Tami Haaland
Montana's Historic Poets with Tami Haaland
Express to Speak with Tahj Kjelland
A Reading, Discussion or Workshop with Montana's Poet Laureate with Lowell Jaeger
Montana's Poet Laureate in the Classroom with Lowell Jaeger
Driving On with Wide Fictions: a Workshop with Caroline Patterson
Montana Women Writers with Caroline Patterson
Nike's Echo with Chrysti M. Smith
Introducing Montana Native American Literature with Dorothea Susag

THE ARTS

Live, Work, Play: How Can Art Bring Us Together? with Jennifer Bevill
Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of Nancy Cooper Russell with Mary Jane Bradbury
The Importance of Her Voice: Song in the Lives of Mountain Women with Almeda Bradshaw
Into the Sunset: The Forgotten Cowgirl Singers with Almeda Bradshaw
Homes & Honky Tonks: Post WWII Women in Country Music with Almeda Bradshaw
Jimmie Rodgers: The Life and Times of the Father of Country Music with Ed Kemmick
Gary Cooper: First, Last, and Always with Neal Lewing
Singing the Westward Legacy with Neal Lewing
Swinging Through American History with Mark Matthews
American Art and Democracy: It All Comes Together in Jazz with Wilbur Rehmann
Brother Can You Spare a Dime? Laughin' to Keep from Cryin' with Bill Rossiter
Home, Home on the Ranch with Bill Rossiter
Identity and Resistance in Visual Art with Aja Mujinga Sherrard

LIVING HISTORY

Jeannette Rankin—American Conscience Living History with Mary Jane Bradbury
Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of Nancy Cooper Russell with Mary Jane Bradbury
Me and Martha: Intimate Reflections of Dora DuFran about the Real Life Calamity Jane with Mary Jane Bradbury
Alcohol, Corsets, and the Vote: A Conversation with Mary Long Alderson with Anne Foster
A Ride Back in Time to the Rocky Mountain Rendezvous Era with Perri Knize
Meagher of the Sword: Montana's First Acting Governor with Neal Lewing
A Visit with an 1879 American Fur Co. Trader with Greg Smith

OUR CURRENT STATE

The Veteran's Experience and Military Culture with Elizabeth Barrs

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Student Success and Access to Higher Education with James Steele, Jr.

THE INFORMED CITIZEN

Investigative Journalism with Kathy Best

What Are Journalistic Ethics? with Kathy Best

Margaret "Unsinkable Molly" Brown and a Mythmaking Press with Mary Jane Bradbury

Locavore News with Courtney Cowgill

Freedom of Speech Requires a Free Press with Darrell Ehrlick

Ink Slingers on the Silver Screen with Gwen Florio

The Role of Alternative Media and Community Involvement with Erika Fredrickson

Online Journalism with Ed Kemmick

Fake News, Preaching to the Choir, and the Enemy of the American People with David McCumber

The Public Trust with David McCumber

What Happened to the News? with Dennis Swibold

CONVERSATION DESCRIPTIONS

(ALPHA BY PRESENTER)

The Veteran's Experience and Military Culture

Elizabeth Barrs

Retired army officer and instructor of Veterans Studies

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One in 10 Montanans is a veteran, yet how much do we know about the veteran's experience and military culture? Literature, history, movies, and other media often portray the veteran in stereotype – brave hero, troubled youth, skilled warrior, apathetic killer, or unflappable leader. In this talk, Elizabeth Barrs, an army combat veteran and instructor of Veterans Studies, explores the real experiences of the American veteran in combat and in peacetime. She discusses military life as well as the historical and current military culture that helps to shape how veterans relate to society. The discussion also explores the experiences of military families and the contemporary challenges and triumphs of veterans as well as what our society is doing to address those challenges.

Chinese in Montana: Our Forgotten Pioneers

Ellen Baumler

Author and interpretive historian, Montana Historical Society

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Chinese pioneers have been neglected in Montana's written record, even though in 1870 they comprised 10 percent of the population. By the 1950s, very few remained. Chinese homes and businesses fell victim to urban renewal programs. Time erased their remote mining and railroad camps. Traces of their culture disappeared, and their stories have become obscured in myth and legend. What happened to these pioneers and where did they go? Historian and award-winning author Baumler explores Montana's urban and remote Chinese settlements through archaeological sites, artifacts, and rare remaining landmarks, recalling the contributions of Montana's Chinese residents and the cultural footprints they left behind.

Profiles of African American Montanans

Ellen Baumler

Author and interpretive historian, Montana Historical Society

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African Americans, small in numbers in Montana, nevertheless have a rich and varied history in this state that has been largely unexplored. These pioneers came with the very first waves of frontier settlers seeking new opportunities. This compelling program chronicles the lives and contributions of more than 20 African American families and individuals through historic photographs, headlines, art, and architecture. The program touches upon the legacy of slavery, the segregation and subsequent integration of Montana schools, other laws relating to minorities, and African American culture in Montana. With a knack for making history personal, Baumler explores the stories, struggles, and accomplishments of some of Montana's African Americans.

Investigative Journalism

Kathy Best

Editor, the Missoulian

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While most people love stories about intrepid reporters bringing down corrupt organizations through persistence and smarts (and lots of coffee) the truth is good investigative journalism takes time and money—two things in short supply at most newspapers. Best talks about how important stories are broken and followed over time and

discusses the challenges to this type of reporting today. Are investigative reporters a disappearing breed? Are new non-profit groups formed to support this type of journalism part of the answer?

What Are Journalistic Ethics?

Kathy Best

Editor, *the Missoulian*

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Despite the recent uproar over fake news and the dishonest mainstream media, traditional journalists and news outlets have long held to rigorous codes of conduct and ethical standards. Journalism schools teach ethics, professional associations have codes of ethics, and most papers have transparency policies that make them accountable to the public. The editor of the *Missoulian* leads a discussion of what safeguards are in place, how standards differ within different news organizations, and whether the safe guards are adequate.

Live, Work, Play: How Can Art Bring Us Together?

Jennifer Bevill

Teaching artist and creativity consultant

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Bevill uses creativity to lead participants through a discussion focused on essential questions such as, How does change happen? How are we connected or divided? How does where we are shape who we are? Might you, I, and everyone we know have superpowers? This program explores the role art plays in all of our lives today through fun, art-based ice-breakers, dynamic discussion, light art history, and hands-on guided art making. Bevill leads audiences in thinking critically about art and the world. She explores how pieces were made, what was unfolding in the artists' lives as they worked, and the global context of the art—and how all of this touches our lives today. Participants of all ages and abilities can explore different materials and processes to get a glimpse of what artists feel when they create. This interactive workshop for is appropriate for children, teachers, staff or any community group hoping to deepen relationships and bring more connection and creativity into their lives.

UFOs and Extraterrestrials in Montana

Joan Bird

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While many UFO sightings can be conventionally explained, a small percentage of reports remain unexplained in both government and private investigations. Montana is home to some of the most significant, well-documented and interesting UFO reports in the history of ufology. This presentation is a short course in UFO literacy, using Montana events to illustrate different aspects of the phenomenon. Montana seems to be a place where there is a lot of historical UFO activity and the audience is invited to share their own or their family's stories.

Jeannette Rankin—American Conscience Living History

Mary Jane Bradbury

Independent scholar and actress

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Humanitarian, pacifist, and tireless advocate for social reform, Jeannette Rankin was the first woman elected to U.S. Congress, and the only member of Congress to vote against U.S. entry into both world wars. Bradbury, as Jeannette, discusses her journey from grassroots suffragist to being the first woman to participate in United State government. Hear in Jeannette's own words her views on equality and government reform—words that ring true today.

Kid Gloves and Brass Knuckles: The Life of Nancy Cooper Russell Living History

Mary Jane Bradbury

Independent scholar and actress

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Against the backdrop of the social and political reform of the early 1900s, Nancy Cooper Russell was a woman ahead of her time. A self-taught business woman with the ability to take charge, Nancy helped Charles M. Russell become the highest paid living artist of his time. Art historians consistently give her credit for being the reason the world has the extraordinary Russell paintings and sculptures that grace galleries and private collections today. Bradbury brings Nancy Russell to life and shares the story of her chance meeting with the Montana cowboy artist who would become her husband. She describes the world of art that celebrated the myth of the west at the beginning of the 20th century and tells stories about the renowned artists and celebrities the Russells knew as they traveled from New York City to the growing California suburb called Hollywood.

Me and Martha: Intimate Reflections of Dora DuFran about the Real Life Calamity Jane Living History

Mary Jane Bradbury

Independent scholar and actress

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The name Calamity Jane brings to mind an iconic character of the American West. Accounts of Calamity—whose real name was Martha Canary—are legion and she has achieved mythical status in the lore of the frontier. She lived and traveled throughout Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas from 1867 to 1903, during some of the West's wildest days. The voracious Victorian press sensationalized her activities, and as a flamboyant character in popular dime novels, Calamity Jane's legend grew until the person behind the character all but disappeared. Who better to give us insights about the real story than madam Dora DuFran, a Black Hills pioneer, entrepreneur and close friend of Calamity's. Ms. DuFran built a successful red light business during the rambunctious early days of the western frontier in Deadwood, South Dakota, and has a unique perspective about how wild it really was. Ms. DuFran knows better than anyone the life of Martha Canary and Calamity Jane, two quite different women, one legendary, one all but forgotten.

Margaret "Unsinkable Molly" Brown and a Mythmaking Press

Mary Jane Bradbury

Independent scholar and actress

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One of the American 20th Century's most enduring myths, the life of Margaret "Unsinkable Molly" Brown, was largely a creation of the press and a society that craved a very specific type of heroine. Mary Jane Bradbury will explore the legend that formed around Margaret Brown, even in her own lifetime, a myth that has been unraveled to reveal a remarkable woman quite different from the popular story. Margaret was the epitome of the reform era's "New Woman," and she used her wealth and fame to work for the social, political and labor reform critical during the early decades of the 20th century. Through her life and the lives of others, Bradbury will discuss the role of the inaccuracies that have shaped our past and inform our present.

The Importance of Her Voice: Song in the Lives of Mountain Women

Almeda Bradshaw

Singer-songwriter

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Meet Emma Bell Miles, a bride of Appalachian poverty, and hear the songs sung by the women she lived among on Walden's Ridge, TN. At the turn of the 20th century, these women were the bearers of folk song tradition. They were the keepers and teachers and they passed on a distinct female point of view as they experienced poverty, hardship, economic exploitation, sexual subjugation and limited opportunities. Their songs, filled with humor,

sadness, victory and heartache, remind us of our common humanity and of those who live even today disenfranchised, overlooked and ignored.

Into the Sunset: The Forgotten Cowgirl Singers

Almeda Bradshaw

Singer-songwriter

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(406) 855-8191

Dale Evan's success as Queen of the West is owed to a century of cowgirls in show business. Made sensationally popular by dime-store novels and touring Wild West troupes, a public love affair began with the clean-cut cowgirl image which allowed women a respectable avenue into show business. From Mary Ann Whittaker's horseback exhibitions in the 1850s, to the Wild West Shows and vaudeville acts of the early 1900s, to the pioneer radio and recording artists of the 1920s, meet the forgotten women entertainers who wore buckskins and boots while yodeling their way into America's heart.

Homes & Honky Tonks: Post WWII Women in Country Music

Almeda Bradshaw

Singer-songwriter

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For working class country folk, honky tonk music became their voice of loneliness and alienation as men and women coped with the stress and adjustments of life after the atomic bomb. 1950s suburban conformity, meant to help normalize the family unit, only contributed to feelings of victimization for both sexes. Examine how PTSD, then unrecognized, contributed to the dysfunction of families and learn how Kitty Wells, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and others responded in their songs to the social changes of post-World War II America.

Evelyn's Water: The Woman Who Sang with Ferlin Husky

Philip Burgess

Poet and writer

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Burgess tells the story of Evelyn, a woman-child who came out to eastern Montana in 1911 and, at the age of fifteen, married a homesteader named James Moore. She immediately became pregnant, but they lost their homestead before she could give birth. James and Evelyn spent the next ten years living in shacks on rented land and working for other farmers, with Evelyn taking a break every year or two to have a baby, until they were able to buy another farm in 1922. Drought caused crop failure after crop failure, and in 1934 Evelyn launched a one-woman letter-writing campaign to convince the government to build an irrigation project for the area. Her letters bore no fruit until 1935 when, in desperation, she wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, figuring that if she wrote to the president, "It would perhaps go in the waste basket." Mrs. Roosevelt replied immediately, and two weeks later the feds showed up on Evelyn's doorstep, and the project was begun. It was about this time that Evelyn had the last of her eleven children, all of them born at home, and only four of them with a doctor present. In 1962, Evelyn was selected Montana's Mother of the Year and flown to New York where she and similarly honored women from other states were guests at a luncheon where she sat at table with John Glenn's parents and sang a duet with Ferlin Husky.

Penny Postcards and Prairie Flowers

Philip Burgess

Poet and writer

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Burgess describes, through poems and stories, the journey of his grandmother Anna Lee and great-aunt Dicka Lee from their family's homestead in northern Minnesota out to eastern Montana where they became homesteaders themselves. Burgess reads excerpts from nearly three hundred post cards female relatives and friends back in

Minnesota sent to Anna and Dicka Lee as they moved out into the world. The women often used these post cards like modern-day e-mail, sharing a litany of disasters, humor, illnesses, adventure, hard work, and social chatter.

WordSongs: Bringing Poetry to Life

Dave Caserio with Parker Brown

Poet, performance artist, former literature instructor with musician

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This program is a dramatic, high-energy, interactive, and intimate performance of poetry and music designed to invigorate and re-ignite the passion and interest for poetry. The duo draws from contemporary and past poets and poetry of diverse cultures and subject matter, period and themes, and fuses them with the music of jazz, blues, classical and folk traditions. The presentation features selections chosen depending on what the sponsoring organization requests, followed by audience question and answer and discussion.

Before the Horse: Northern Rockies Lifestyles

Kae Cheatham

Author, photographer and researcher

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Indian people of the Northern Rockies are most often considered part of the American Indian Horse Culture; yet their history existed long before the modern horse appeared 280 years ago. Cheatham talks about those centuries before the horse, when the extensive use of dogs was most prevalent. She gives details about the size of lodges, village layout, and the use of dogs as draft animals. To illustrate the program, Cheatham uses maps and photos, as well as animal replicas, with their bundles and sledges (travois). She discusses how and why people traveled and hunting procedures. Throughout the program, Cheatham challenges young people to show the knowledge they already have through questions and problem solving. She stresses the resourcefulness of the region's first immigrants, and encourages people to re-think how ancient cultures are perceived and the importance of this history.

1988 Yellowstone Fires

John Clayton

Author

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To many people in Montana, the 1988 Yellowstone fires felt like a watershed event. In the almost three decades since that memorable summer, we've learned a lot about fire ecology and wildfire management. But did the fires change the way people think about America's iconic landscape and first national park? What did they mean for the culture at large? Journalist and historian John Clayton reviews the events of the summer, and leads an exploration of how Yellowstone is tied to American cultural identity.

American Justice: Criminal Justice and the Era of Mass Incarceration

Jacob Coolidge

Project Manager of Montana Justice Initiative, Alexander Blewett III School of Law

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The United States is home to 5% of the global population, yet incarcerates 25% of the world's prisoners. With the highest incarceration rate in the world, the United States is firmly entrenched in the "era of mass incarceration." This has been fueled by "tough on crime" political rhetoric, harsh sentencing laws, the war on drugs, and the privatization of the corrections industry. Jail overcrowding is commonplace across Montana. In most counties, as many as 80% of the inmates have not even been convicted of a crime. With more than 90% of criminal cases ending in a plea bargain or without a criminal trial, the human and financial impact of pre-trial detainment in county jails cannot be overstated. Coolidge explores the sociological and legal context of our ever-rising incarceration

rates, its evolving social and economic impacts, and the future of American sentencing and corrections. Coolidge can work with your school or organization to define a focus within the topic of the criminal justice system that best fits your audience.

Locavore News

Courtney Cowgill

Visiting professor of Journalism, University of Montana

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Carrots and journalism have more in common than you might think. Cowgill shares what she's learned after 20 years in the media and 10 years of farming—when it comes to feeding themselves with either food or information, people will support something they can trust. In an era of fake news and fake food, trust is waning. Local news and local food offer some important lessons on what to do about it.

Philosophy: What is it Good for?

Marisa Diaz-Waian

philosopher, executive director at Merlin CCC

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Philosophy is oft deemed as impractical, inaccessible, and irrelevant to our everyday lives. But nothing could be further from the truth. This program is an attempt to uproot these characterizations and reveal a more accurate representation of philosophy as a way of life and something that is valuable, relevant, inspiring...and yes, *fun*. Interactive and dynamic, this program is geared for high school audiences and community members of all ages interested in learning more about how philosophy can help enrich our lives...and why it is good for "absolutely everything!"

Montana 1864-1889

Ken Egan

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Join scholar and writer Ken Egan for a tour of Montana from 1864 to 1889. See how key historical figures such as Granville Stuart, James Fergus, Helen Clarke, Wilbur Sanders, Young Man Afraid of His Horses, and more change over time—and how Montana changes with them as it transforms from territory to state. Ken will have copies of his books *Montana 1864* and *Montana 1889* available for sale—all royalties support the programs and grants of Humanities Montana.

Freedom of Speech Requires a Free Press

Darrell Ehrlick

Editor, *The Billings Gazette*

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One of the most common complaints a newspaper editor hears is that she/he is violating a reader's Constitutional right by not running his/her letter. Well, that's not exactly what the First Amendment guarantees. Drawing upon real-life experiences, Ehrlick discusses what the roles and responsibilities of a free press are in light of the First Amendment, and what it doesn't mean. He'll also touch on the differences between journalism and media – and how the Constitutional guarantee of a free press, doesn't guarantee the press' existence. He'll also discuss how social media helps and hinders journalism. During the presentation, he'll share examples of being a newspaper editor in different states, and take questions and comments about covering the Treasure State, and the press' role historically in Montana.

Living with the Land

Louise Fischer

Annishinaabe artist and cultural consultant

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Fischer describes the American Indian struggle for survival in often harsh conditions, triumph over hardships, and spiritual and creative achievements. This inspiring talk enhances understanding of how the Indian peoples lived, and can be tailored to focus particularly on food, clothing, or medicine, as requested. Fischer, an artist who was raised in a traditional Indian environment, has been sharing traditional knowledge for the past thirty years.

Ink Slingers on the Silver Screen

Gwen Florio

News editor, the *Missoulian*

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Newspaper reporters and editors make great film characters and movies like *All the President's Men*, *Spotlight* and *The Post* highlight shoe-leather reporting at its most realistic. But what about all the other ones that feature reporters as either lead or secondary characters—what are they getting wrong? (Too much sleeping with sources, for one thing!, says real-life editor Gwen Florio.) What else does the silver screen get wrong and what are the best newspaper movies of all time?

Alcohol, Corsets, and the Vote: A Conversation with Mary Long Alderson **Living History**

Anne Foster

Archivist and living history interpreter

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In celebration of the Montana women's suffrage centennial, join suffragette, temperance worker, dress reformer, and journalist Mary Long Alderson for a conversation. Chairwoman of the Montana Floral Emblem campaign, president of the Montana Christian Temperance Union, and a leader in the Montana Woman Suffrage Association, Mrs. Alderson is an eloquent and passionate speaker. Drawing from her own editorials and other writings, she explains the benefits of votes for women as well as the evils of drink and tight lacing.

The Role of Alternative Media and Community Involvement

Erika Fredrickson

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Independent newspapers—and especially alt-weeklies—still rely on antiquated models for survival. As so many print newspapers are bought up or closed down, journalists across the country are looking for new models to revive independent media in small and mid-sized towns. Erika Fredrickson, former arts editor of the Missoula Independent, talks about the importance of independent news and how the closure of the Indy in September 2018 has led her former co-workers on a quest to find exciting and innovative way to bring independent print media back with the help of the community.

Developing Community Literary Programs

Tami Haaland

Former poet laureate, professor, Montana State University – Billings

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In this presentation, Haaland leads a community discussion about developing and nurturing local literary culture. Raised on the Hi-Line, Haaland has first-hand experience of the benefits active cultural programming can bring to Montana's rural environments. Rural communities also face challenges building literary programs, but there are practical and innovative ways to overcome these challenges. Haaland can help communities establish writing

groups for all ages, find innovative ways to cultivate local talent, and create a program of guest artists. In conjunction with any of Tami Haaland's programs, a community may request a writing workshop tailored to the needs of any age group.

Montana's Historic Poets

Tami Haaland

Former poet laureate, professor, Montana State University – Billings

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(406) 657-2948

Montana has been home to many poets from the late 19th century until the present. In this presentation, Haaland focuses on individual voices associated with locale, theme, or historic period and discuss themes and patterns evident in the work of Montana's historic poets. A PowerPoint presentation highlights individual poets and poems. This program can be modified to highlight the poets associated with particular communities.

Blackfeet Language and Stories

Robert Hall

Blackfeet language instructor and linguistics scholar

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Robert Patrick Hall, Maato'ommstatto'osi (First-Winters-Sun) in Blackfeet, is a story teller. He tells old stories that have been passed down generation to generation by the Piikunnii people, also known as The Blackfeet. Through these stories, he gives audiences a taste of how Piikunnii lives once were, how their spirituality and empathy were important, and the joys of humor. He tells the stories in English and Blackfeet, so that the stories can be heard as they were originally spoken before they are understood in English. He teaches people about Blackfeet people while making the audience feel respected and comfortable for being a human being on this land. It is paramount that people leave feeling good because that is why we tell stories: to make one another important.

Immigration and Refugee Law and Policy

Shahid Haque

Immigration lawyer, founder and president of the Montana Immigrant Justice Alliance, law instructor at University of Montana

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Shahid Haque dedicates his practice to helping immigrants obtain legal status in the United States and pursue all that the country has to offer. He represents well over a thousand immigrants and their families all across Montana, and has been in contact with over a thousand other immigrants in Montana through his advocacy efforts. He has internalized their stories, understands their feelings and anxieties, and is one of the few people in Montana who has a broad and clear picture of the diverse immigrant communities throughout Montana, from Glacier to Yellowstone — and in all the small communities along the way. *Due to a busy caseload that sometimes makes long travel difficult, Shahid's availability is sometimes limited.*

A Reading, Discussion or Workshop with Montana's Poet Laureate

Lowell Jaeger

Author, professor, Flathead Valley Community College

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(406) 261-1766

Montana poet laureate Lowell Jaeger offers poetry readings, discussions and workshops tailored to each audience:

READING

At Jaeger's readings, expect humor, expect serious reflection, expect to examine the "human condition" in all its marvelous complexity. He enjoys interacting with audiences. He enjoys sharing the stage with other Montana poets. In between reading from his own work, he enjoys reciting from memory the poems of Robert Frost, Donald Hall, Richard Wilbur, and others. Let's light up the evening with the splendid magic of the spoken word!

DISCUSSION

Poetry can be employed in a variety of ways to stimulate thoughtful reflection and discussion. Jaeger is a trained and experienced discussion facilitator. It's all about encouraging people to think and share. It's all about learning from each other and respecting diverse perspectives. These conversations are of proven value to an amazing array of community meetings and organizations. Give it a try; discover what's possible when people get together, share ideas, listen, think, grow.

WORKSHOP

Everyone can sing, everyone can dance, everyone can paint, and everyone can write poems. Poetry, like any art, is a mode of human expression. Sure, some of us are more accomplished than others, but all of us have a right to give it a go. Poetry happens when words surprise each other. Jaeger loves best of all to witness writers in my workshops surprising themselves. Let's plan together to serve your group's particular groove.

Poet William Stafford said of Lowell Jaeger's poems, "He has gone inside the feelings and thoughts that mark our part of the century. He makes me realize how serious and focused—and engaged—poetry can be." Jaeger's poems spring from direct experience with his subject matter—people of all walks of life, especially the people of Montana with whom Lowell has rubbed elbows for the past 30 years. Poet Denise Levertov, who chose Jaeger's poem "Ernesto di Fiori's 'Soldier'" for the Grolier Poetry Peace Prize, called Jaeger's poems "vivid and compelling...brave in [the poem's] wide-eyed acceptance of life as it is." Poet Kathleen Spivak praised Jaeger's poems as "Clear, magnificently expressed, Lowell Jaeger's poems are poignant in their honesty." And poet Marvin Bell said of Jaeger's work, "We are indicted by experience, and this is its honest language."

The Art of Meaningful Conversation: Let's Talk About What's Important

Lowell Jaeger

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Discussion facilitator Lowell Jaeger uses stimulating short pieces of literature to generate lively, thoughtful, engaging conversations concerning topics important to our everyday lives. The reading and the focus for these conversations can be tailored to your group's particular interests and needs. These guided discussions honor diverse perspectives and are a great way to bring people together for an hour of shared thoughts and surprising insights. Participants often rediscover how pleasing a meaningful conversation can be. And how much fun!

Montana's Poet Laureate in the Classroom

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(406) 261-1766

Lowell Jaeger, Montana's Poet Laureate, enjoys bringing poetry to students of all ages and backgrounds. Everyone likes to laugh, and poetry can help us do that. Poetry can also nudge us toward meaningful discussion concerning important personal and social topics. He can customize his visit to fit the needs of your curriculum, your classroom, your students.

Poet William Stafford said of Lowell Jaeger's poems, "He has gone inside the feelings and thoughts that mark our part of the century. He makes me realize how serious and focused—and engaged—poetry can be." Jaeger's poems spring from direct experience with his subject matter—people of all walks of life, especially the people of Montana with whom Lowell has rubbed elbows for the past 30 years. Poet Denise Levertov, who chose Jaeger's poem "Ernesto di Fiori's 'Soldier'" for the Grolier Poetry Peace Prize, called Jaeger's poems "vivid and compelling...brave in [the poem's] wide-eyed acceptance of life as it is." Poet Kathleen Spivak praised Jaeger's poems as "Clear, magnificently expressed, Lowell Jaeger's poems are poignant in their honesty." And poet Marvin Bell said of Jaeger's work, "We are indicted by experience, and this is its honest language."

Hand-Raised: The Historic Barns of Montana

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The historic barns of Montana are a threatened part of our heritage. To capture their history and encourage their preservation, Chere Jiusto, Christine Brown and photographer Tom Ferris collaborated on the award-winning book *Hand Raised: Historic Barns of Montana*, released by Montana Historical Society Press in 2011. Chere Jiusto and Christine Brown have dedicated their careers to preserving Montana's historic places, as director and education director with the Montana Preservation Alliance. MPA championed this decade-long project, which traces the agricultural history of Big Sky Country and celebrates the craftsmanship that went into building these icons of rural life. This conversation includes an overview of Montana's barn-building history, stunning photographs of barns from across the state, and the stories attached to some of Montana's most memorable, photogenic, and historic barns.

Bold Women in Montana History

Beth Judy

author

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What does it mean to be bold? Beth Judy shares selected stories of the 15+ women in her book, *Bold Women in Montana History*, to see how some of our Montana foremothers harnessed their own boldness. These women overcame challenges, thought outside the box, adventured, nurtured, built community, and fought. Their stories can inspire and lead us in thinking about our challenges today. These women include Blackfeet warrior Running Eagle; African American homesteader and army cook Annie Morgan; Crow grandmother, author, and culture keeper Pretty Shield; Jeannette Rankin; Butte's Women's Protective Union; actress Myrna Loy; rodeo stars Alice & Marge Greenough; Montana state librarian Alma Jacobs; modern artist and rancher Isabelle Johnson; writers Belle and Frieda Fligelman; and accountant and activist Elouise Cobell.

Jimmie Rodgers: The Life and Times of the Father of Country Music

Ed Kimmick

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Jimmie Rodgers, who was born in 1897 and died in 1933, was known in his time as The Singing Brakeman and The Blue Yodeler, and after it as The Father of Country Music. Bob Dylan wasn't satisfied with any of those titles, so he came up with his own: The Man Who Started It All. Jimmie Rodgers has influenced countless musicians in many different genres, but his own music remains as powerful and affecting as it was when it was new. There was and there is something fresh, honest and big-hearted about his music, whether he was singing about ill-fated railroad men, lonely cowboys, love-struck city slickers or gun-toting gamblers. John and Ed Kimmick talk about Jimmie Rodgers' life and influence, interspersed with their performance of some of his songs.

Online Journalism

Ed Kimmick

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In a time when print newspapers are on their last legs, how do we continue providing the vital news coverage that people took for granted for so many years? The question is even more urgent in places like Montana, far from the

major media markets. Ed Kemmick, a 40-year newspaper veteran who started an online-only newspaper in Billings in 2014 looks at some of the opportunities, as well as the challenges, that lie ahead.

Express to Speak

Tahj Kjelland

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This program is designed to enhance teen and pre-teen abilities to write and perform spontaneous poetry. Better known as spoken-word poetry or hip hop, spontaneous poetry integrates real-world experience with improvised performance. "Express to Speak" gives participants the opportunity to express themselves artistically through storytelling. Mind-mapping exercises used in this workshop are designed to open up kids to their voice, views, and passions while giving them real-life problem-solving tools.

Gary Cooper: First, Last, and Always

Neal Lewing

Actor, singer/songwriter, recording artist, playwright, poet, storyteller, author and historian

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(406) 883-9212

Personifying the ideal American male, Gary Cooper, above all, was most concerned with integrity; his roles reflected those personal views. This nostalgic reintroduction to one of Hollywood's most endearing and enduring actors recreates memorable moments, from his first silent films to his dramatic last days, through the written words he spoke. Underscored by music and socio-economic history of his day, this program not only illuminates Montana's favorite actor but also 20th-century America.

Meagher of the Sword: Montana's First Acting Governor Living History

Neal Lewing

Actor, singer/songwriter, recording artist, playwright, poet, storyteller, author and historian

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Thomas Francis Meagher lived a colorful life of adventure, from humble beginnings in Ireland to Montana's first territorial governor. In between, he led Irish rebels, escaped from Van Diemen's Land, toured the United States on a lecture circuit, designed the Irish tricolor flag, and distinguished himself as a Civil War general. His final disappearance in Ft. Benton remains an unsolved mystery. This is the story, in folklore, music, and his own words, of the man commemorated in the statue that graces the Montana State Capitol's front lawn.

Singing the Westward Legacy

Neal Lewing

Actor, singer/songwriter, recording artist, playwright, poet, storyteller, author and historian

ntnlew@hotmail.com

(406) 883-9212

Neal Lewing shares America's musical legacy from Lewis and Clark to Custer, with traditional and original folk songs, history, and a few laughs. The show contains many traditional tunes, such as "Shenandoah," "Down in the Mine" and "160 Acres," plus less familiar traditional songs. The program examines the role of music in our history, our heritage and our cultural evolution, and why its importance is no less vital today.

Song of the Dawn Priests: A History of the Crow People

Franco Littlelight

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The history of the Crow People is closely tied to the Montana, Wyoming, Northern Colorado, and Southern Alberta and Saskatchewan landscape. Franco Littlelight shares this history through storytelling, song, poetry, music, and images. Using oral traditions, anthropology research, and archaeological perspectives the origin story of the Crow People unfolds from the mythic wellspring to the separation from the Sioux and Hidatsa, from life along the Yellowstone to the heartbreaking separation from the Yellowstone valley marking the end of the Buffalo Days.

Do We Know Our Fellow Americans?

Ambrin F. Masood, PhD

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Travel abroad and you might wonder, "Why is the whole world interested in America?" But ask a foreigner and they'd say, "Why isn't America interested in the rest of the world?" When they hear that Dr. Masood is from Pakistan, strangers often offer sympathy or ask whether she lived close to Syria. Pakistan, even after more than six decades of its existence, remains an enigma to the world. Dr. Masood teaches her audience about the real Pakistan she knows: Pakistani cricket, the spicy food, the resilience of people, the sheer beauty of the country, the warm and fabulous hospitality of Pakistanis. The United States is becoming increasingly diverse. By learning about various ethnic identities we can change negative ethnic group stereotypes, reduce intolerance, and enhance cooperation for the common good. Dr. Masood's background in psychology make her the perfect person to lead an open, welcoming discussion that invites questions and increases understanding.

Cultural Diversity and Muslims in America

Ambrin F. Masood, PhD

Assistant Professor of Counseling and Rehabilitation at MSU Billings

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With about 5 million Muslims living in the United States, many Americans want to know: who are they? Dr. Masood is an American, a mother, a wife, a professor, and a practicing Muslim. She prays 5 times a day, recites Quran every morning, fasts during Ramadan, recites Bismillah before she starts her car's engine, and pays her zakkah (an annual charitable practice that is obligatory for all that can afford it), but she doesn't wear hijab. To Dr. Masood, Islam is not supposed to be difficult or rigid, it is not guilt, it is not fear, it is definitely not war—it's peace—internal and external peace. It's a life style. Prayer gives her solace when she feels distressed or conflicted. That is her Islam, not the one many hear about from Taliban or ISIS. Dr. Masood's background in psychology makes her the perfect person to lead an open, welcoming discussion that invites questions and increases understanding.

Swinging Through American History

Mark Matthews

Writer, historian, dance caller/instructor, officer with the Missoula Folklore Society, writing instructor at The University of Montana College of Technology

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Mark Matthews, historian and author of "Swinging through American History," will take you back to the ballrooms, taverns, juke joints, honky tonks and dance emporiums of the past as he explains the manner in which American dancing evolved with certain social changes--and, how certain dances stimulated changes in American social life. The spectrum of historic dances runs from the colonial English country dance to the French quadrille to the American square dance and the waltz; plus modern movements such as the one-steps, the Charleston, Lindy hop, mambo, twist and disco.

Mark will even get the more adventurous audiences out of their chairs and onto their feet to experience the joy of movement, or he can limit his presentations to readings from his writings, enhanced with vintage videos or modern recreations of iconic moments in dance. Mark's books include "Square You Sets: The Birth of American Social Dancing"; "Promenading toward Democracy: The Great Square Dance Revival"; "Cakewalking out of Slavery: A Study of Racism in America"; and "Jitterbugging across the Colorline: Desegregating the Dance Floor."

Fake News, Preaching to the Choir, and the Enemy of the American People

David McCumber

Editor, *Montana Standard*

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What does the phenomenon of everyone from the President on down calling anything they don't like or agree with in the media "fake news" mean? Why has "preaching to the choir" proven to be not only a profitable approach but also a huge contributor to the deep partisan divide in the country? The answers to those questions give us clues to why the President and folks like Steve Bannon have gone so far as to say members of the news media are "the enemy of the American people." A look at what these trends mean to the country and to journalism.

The Public Trust

David McCumber

Editor, *Montana Standard*

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Newspapers are for-profit enterprises. But they are more than that. Readers expect much of their newspapers. They expect the news to be covered with energy and thoroughness, particularly the local news. That's just for starters. They also expect a newspaper to be a watchdog—to be a protector of the "little guy," an advocate for truth and fairness not only in what we write, but in government and public affairs in general. In other words, if people are not being treated fairly; if they are being endangered, or discriminated against, or taken advantage of, they expect us to blow the whistle. That's a newspaper's unwritten contract with the community it serves. We newspaper editors frequently call it "the public trust." And it's a real thing that not only has a big impact on a newspaper's brand but also on the community it serves.

Tell Us Something Storytelling Workshop

Marc Moss

Story coach

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General workshop description: You have a wealth of incredible stories in you. Join host Marc Moss of Tell Us Something as he guides you on a journey of finding your own story. Marc will help you shape that story into one you can share at a live storytelling performance the evening of the workshop. We will learn about the sense of place in a story through observation of the natural surroundings of the State Parks, learn about story arc, and learn how to better speak in front of a crowd. The workshop is open to all ages and abilities.

Driving On with Wide Fictions: a Workshop

Caroline Patterson

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In a warm, supportive workshop, novices and experienced writers can develop their stories using exercises designed to develop characterization, pacing, and dialogue. In the course of the 2-hour workshop participants will discuss story structure, voice, point of view, and language, but the emphasis will be helping writers develop and hone their voices. As the great Montana poet Richard Hugo said, "Some are doomed to small lives and small stories. Others drive on in wide fictions."

Montana Women Writers

Caroline Patterson

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Patterson provides an hour-long survey of Montana women writers, from early Native American writers through homesteaders and settlers (Mary Ronan and Nannie Alderson) into the mining days (Mary MacLane of Butte) and

the progressive era of Montana (Frieda Fliegelman and Grace Stone Coates). Patterson finishes with a survey of the contemporary women poets, memoirists, and fiction writers who have helped to reinterpret and re-envision the American West (Judy Blunt, Sandra Alcosser, Melissa Kwansy, Maile Meloy, Deirdre McNamer, and Tami Haaland). To conclude, Patterson asks the audience to volunteer stories about remarkable women they have known: homesteaders, teachers, ranchers, rodeo riders, and homemakers.

The Resurgent Wild

Christopher J. Preston

Professor of environmental philosophy, University of Montana

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Wild nature fills the mythology of the American West. But is the wild disappearing? Despite this common fear, the restoration of animals like grizzly bears, bison, and wolves means that, in some contexts, Montana's wild nature may actually be starting to increase again. Nature, it turns out, may be on the point of being renewed. Christopher Preston looks at how these examples of renewal fit with the traditional account of nature preservation and what they might mean for how we think about the surrounding landscape going forward.

From the Atom to the Atmosphere: Replacing Nature with a Synthetic World

Christopher J. Preston

Professor of environmental philosophy, University of Montana

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From the furthest part of the Arctic Ocean to the remotest spot in the Montana backcountry, the unmistakable traces of human activity are now everywhere. We live in the moment when "pristine nature" is permanently blinking out of existence. The most dramatic aspect of this distinctive moment in history, however, is the arrival of new technologies that promise even deeper transformations of the world around us. From here onwards, technologies like nanotechnology, synthetic biology, and climate engineering will transform our planet into an increasingly synthetic whole. Christopher Preston shows how many of these nature-replacing technologies may be necessary, but also how they may risk cutting us loose from the things that keep us sane.

American Art and Democracy: It All Comes Together in Jazz

Wilbur Rehmann

Musician

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America is the only place where the art form called jazz could have been created. Rehmann begins by describing the roots of jazz in the field hollers and work songs of slaves and follows the art form through to the modern jazz era of the '40s, '50s, '60s, and beyond. Rehmann illustrates points with examples from recordings, his own saxophone playing, and video footage.

Brother Can You Spare a Dime? Laughin' to Keep from Cryin'

Bill Rossiter

Retired instructor of literature and folklore and chair of the Humanities Division, Flathead Valley Community College

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(406) 755-2236

During the Dirty '30s, network radio and Hollywood followed Washington's lead in sturdily ignoring the Depression, assuring us that "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," and that "prosperity is just around the corner." But the rural and small-town musicians, the ones who never made the charts, played a different tune. They saw the Depression for what it was and poked wicked fun at Wall Street, greed, the American dream and, especially, at Herbert Hoover ("Look here, Hoover, see what you done. You went off fishin', let the country go to ruin"). Montana was "ahead of the curve" when it came to dust bowls, grasshopper plagues and economic hard times. Montana newspapers from the '20s tell of bank failures, crop losses, and deserted homesteads—issues not widely reported in the rest of the nation until a decade later. "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" views the Depression, with a glance at Montana's early start, not through history and literature, but through songs and "illiterature," looking at what happened to the

common folks most affected by it. This bareknuckle report on the state of the union during the Dirty '30s is accompanied by banjo, guitar and autoharp.

Home, Home on the Ranch

Bill Rossiter

Retired instructor of literature and folklore, chair of the Humanities Division, Flathead Valley Community College

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This musical presentation details the values, experiences, humor and tragedies unique to building a life in the rural West. Carving a home out of the high plains wilderness was tough enough, but these songs and stories—some serious, some funny, some seriously funny—show that staying for the long haul added flint to the soul. Rossiter accompanies the songs with guitar, banjo, autoharp, and harmonica. He encourages audience members to share personal or family stories about life on the range.

Identity and Resistance in Visual Art

Aja Mujinga Sherrard

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Since the first cave paintings right up to art made across the world today, artists have been tackling tough questions, like: *What does it mean to be a person? What is our relationship to nature? What are our relationships to each other?* and, *What matters?* Looking at examples of artwork from the ancient world all the way into contemporary art, we will dive into the history of art and big ideas across geography, time, and culture; learning how to “read” images, think visually, make connections, and ask questions in the process.

Nike's Echo

Chrysti M. Smith

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There are linguistic footprints left in our language by the gods, goddesses, monsters and mortals of ancient Greece and Rome. Thousands of stories were crafted around the exploits of such characters as Achilles, Hermaphrodites, the Muses, and Narcissus, who ultimately loaned their names to the English-language with terms like Achilles' tendon, hermaphrodite, music, and narcissism. In Nike's Echo, Chrysti M. Smith revives the myths of the ancients and explains how those stories live on in dozens of common English words. Combining images of Western mythological characters and contemporary culture, Smith reveals an often forgotten world of words.

A Visit with an 1879 American Fur Co. Trader Living History

Greg Smith

Ranger, naturalist

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Smith brings to life the adventures and stories of James W. Schultz through the fictitious character of Jim Deakins. The year is 1879 and through Jim Deakins audiences take part in the hunting of the last of the great bison herds, share in the adventures of the Blackfeet and their enemy the Crow, and hear stories of that “foolishness” called Yellowstone National Park. Finally, Jim Deakins shares a powerful gift given by the Blackfoot medicine warrior Red Eagle. So come on along and join Jim Deakins in the year 1879!

Homestead Dreams

Hal Stearns

Historian, storyteller, guide

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(406) 461-4419

In 1862, Congress passed and President Abraham Lincoln signed one of America's most important pieces of legislation: The Homestead Act. This far-reaching law impacted Montana then, and does to this very day. Montana has always been a state marked by boom and bust—the fur trade, cattle on the open range, the gold and silver, coal and oil rushes. But no moment in our history has left a mark like that of the “honyocker” or homesteader. Stearns describes the American West's last great agricultural land rush and the drought and depression that followed, illustrating his talk with a myriad of signs left on the landscape.

Montana Towns: Then, Now, Tomorrow

Hal Stearns

Historian, storyteller, guide

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Montana is a state of extremes, from high mountains to great plains. Half the population lives in just five communities and another third of residents lives in just ten others. After the big ones, the remaining 134 incorporated towns are often unique, often overlooked, and all small, yet personify so much of the Big Sky. These small towns were built around gold, coal and oil, timber, cows and sheep, early trails, roads and rails. But time brings change. Why do some smaller towns hang in while others drift away? A few invent new roles and others reinvent themselves. Should we care? A discussion helps us understand the small places that are a big part of the Montana story.

Larger Than Life Leaders in Montana History

Hal Stearns

Historian, storyteller, guide

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(406) 461-4419

From Sitting Bull to Custer, from Copper Kings to Wheeler and Mansfield, from Rankin to Cobell, and more. Under the microscope, a few leaders are great, some are famous, others fair at best. The past gives us many lessons. Whether politician, military commander, educator, chief, or coach, leadership is key. It is a mix of art and innovation, charisma and communication, brave or brash. Hal Stearns tells stories about Montana's past leaders to start a discussion about Montana today.

Washington D.C. and Tribal Councils: Cross-Cultural Politics

James Steele, Jr.

Director of Student Success at Salish Kootenai College, member of the Tribal Council of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes

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James Steele Jr. will share his expertise on cross-cultural governments, legislature and policy, and how the federal and state governments interact with Tribal Councils. He is an expert on how federal and state law affects reservations and on how tribal councils and state governments navigate a shared landscape. Steele will lead a discussion on internal politics in government and the effects of government policy on reservations.

Student Success and Access to Higher Education

James Steele, Jr.

Director of Student Success at Salish Kootenai College, member of the Tribal Council of the Salish and Kootenai Tribes

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James Steele Jr. will lead discussion about factors affecting student matriculation, retention, and graduation. He will engage participants in conversation about the elements that go into ensuring student success, the challenges of matriculation and retention in higher education, and bridging gaps to facilitate successful admission and student transitions. This program is available to teachers and classrooms, as well as any group with interest in educational equity and the student experience.

Introducing Montana Native American Literature

Dorothea Susag

Retired language arts and Heritage Project teacher, author

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This presentation introduces any of the following works: *Two Old Women* by Velma Wallis, *Counting Coup* by Joe Medicine Crow, *American Indian Stories* by Zitkala-Sa, *Wind from an Enemy Sky* by D'Arcy McNickle, *Killing Custer* by James Welch, *Fools Crow* by James Welch, *Playing for the World: 1904 Fort Shaw Indian Girls Basketball Team*, *The Surrounded* by D'Arcy McNickle, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, *Perma Red* by Debra Earling, or *Birthright - Born to Poetry: a Collection of Montana Indian Poetry*. A one-to-two-hour presentation might cover one major work, but may include video, picture books, poems and some primary documents. These presentations work for students as well as book clubs, local historical societies, and other community organizations. Susag works directly with individual teachers to create an interactive presentation that can be integrated into whatever the students are currently studying.

What Happened to the News?

Dennis Swibold

Professor and director, University of Montana's School of Journalism

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Never has so much news been available. The trick is knowing how to find it—and how to judge its credibility. This program—presented by a veteran journalist, author and educator—takes listeners behind the curtain to reveal how the news is made and explain the revolutionary changes facing today's fast-paced news media. It also offers citizens tools and techniques for staying well-informed amid the virtual blizzard of information—and for participating directly in the civic debates crucial to their communities, state and nation.

The Corps of Discovery: Tomahawks, Rifles, and Food for Thought

Stephen Sylvester

Retired professor of history, and Lewis and Clark trail workshop leader

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The Lewis and Clark Expedition travelled up the Missouri River across Montana, Idaho, and Washington, to the Pacific Ocean and back in one of America's best-known and least understood adventures. What did the Corps of Discovery actually accomplish? What did the expedition mean to Americans at the time and later? What specific activities were important then that are less important now? How has technology affected such things as weapons, travel, food, and communication? Participants engage in a lively discussion of what the journey was actually like and what its successes and failures were and are.

The Métis in Montana History

Nicholas Vrooman

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The indigenous North Americans known as Métis/Michif (and in Montana as "Landless Indians") are part of those Aboriginal peoples who live along the Medicine Line of the Canada and United States border, between Lake of the Woods (MN) and the Rocky Mountains (MT), who did not fit as part of either national project in the reconfiguration of the North American West. During the last third of the 19th century, as these new nation-states exerted effective control over the northern Great Plains and those aboriginal societies within that geography, they made critically disastrous decisions concerning "who was who, who was whose, who was in, and who was out." Those choices gave form to the relationships between the First Peoples of the borderlands and the federal governments of the United States and Canada today. Some First Peoples, such as Montana's Little Shell Tribe, were left out of the settling. This presentation tells that story.

Apsaalooke Respect, Enrollment, and Contemporary Education

Dana Wilson

Web services librarian, University of Montana

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A discussion on respect, clan system, enrollment, education, and psychology of a modern day Crow Indian. The Apsaalooke people had an educational and socialistic way of life, beginning at birth similar to Maslows Heirarchy of needs, with a different twist. We will also discuss how many higher educational programs sometimes overlook the natives who were born and raised on the reservations and attended reservation schools. Even though modern Apsaalooke people can never accomplish “war deeds” as our forefathers did, we can still achieve honor through different avenues such as sports, military honors, and higher education.

Wilson is an enrolled member of the Apsaalooke Tribe, Big Lodge Clan, child of the Bad War Deeds. He grew up in the Mighty Few District, graduated from Lodge Grass High school and worked in the coal mines for 15 years. He has served as an elected member of the Crow Legislative Branch for nine years, also vice chairman of the Crow Executive Branch four years. He earned a BS in geosciences from The University of Montana, and is a graduate of the Western College of Auctioneering. Wilson participates in many cultural activities, loves the outdoors and likes to call himself a horseman. He was instrumental in creating the Apsaalooke Language App, which is free to download.