

**Subject: News from the Delaware Humanities Forum. Last day for Between Fences in Delaware City is tomorrow! Last stop in Delaware is Milton; starts May 15.**



Delaware Humanities Forum

May 2009 Newsletter

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## Dear Friend,

On April 17 and 18, DHF celebrated the people of Delaware through its Kent County symposium, held on the campus of Wesley College in Dover, as part of the Forum's yearlong anniversary celebration, *Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Frame*. "I am very happy and proud of the effort of all involved with this event," said Delaware Humanities Council Vice Chairman Larry Josefowski, "and look forward to the next one."

Additional events are planned in celebration of the anniversary including a Sussex County symposium and a New Castle County year-end celebration. Stay tuned for more details.

In the meantime, consider participating in one or all of the events detailed below.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marilyn P. Whittington'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marilyn P. Whittington  
Executive Director

Image: DHF Chairman Kim Burdick with past Chairman Phyllis Levitt at the Kent County Symposium, May 17-18, 2009. Credit: Kathleen Buckalew

## Interpreting Dreams

### DHF Presents Books and Authors Series

DHF presents a books and authors series this summer with novels that interpret the diverse history of the state's people. The three featured novels span two centuries and describe the lives of runaway slaves before the Civil War, the immigrants who fashioned Wilmington's Little Italy after World War II, and today's newcomers redefining themselves as Americans. The series theme is "Interpreting Dreams"-the dreams of people struggling to survive slavery, fit in with post-war America or find their bearings despite cultural disorientation. Each book is beautifully written, heartfelt, insightful and has some basis in Delaware culture.

The Forum invites readers to participate in three evenings of book talk and

The Forum invites readers to participate in three evenings of book talk and entertainment at Ameritage Restaurant & Lounge, 900 N. Orange St., Wilmington. Performed by actors from City Theater Company of Wilmington, each evening will begin with a brief dramatic reading of the featured novel.

The schedule is as follows:

**On Friday, June 19 at 7pm, participants will discuss "Song Yet Sung" by James McBride.** Before the Civil War, runaway slaves flee through the swamps of Maryland's Eastern Shore, chased by Patty Cannon's gang of kidnapers. The Code of the Underground Railroad tells them how to go. But fugitive Liz Spocott has strange dreams of the future.

Percussionist Kamau Ngom will perform African drum music and talk about the African connection to blues music, country shouts, and the Underground Railroad.

**On Wednesday, July 15 at 7pm, participants will discuss "The Saint of Lost Things" by Christopher Castellani.** It is 1953 in Wilmington's Little Italy, and immigrant bride Maddalena Grasso struggles to feel at home. Her husband Antonio dreams of owning his own restaurant, yet abets a plot to demean a neighbor. Author Christopher Castellani grew up in the city, inspired by his parents' emigration from Italy after World War II.

Castellani will be on hand to talk about "The Saint of Lost Things" and preview his third novel, which continues Maddalena's story. His trilogy started with "A Kiss From Maddalena" which described his heroine's girlhood in an Italian country village before and during World War II. Chris's parents, who live in Wilmington, will be with him.

**On Friday, August 14 at 7pm, participants will discuss "The Language of Good-Bye" by Maribeth Fischer.**

Love, marriage and life in a new country all require learning a new language. A teacher of English and a Korean-born student in her class find themselves at a loss for words when undreamed-of choices and duty conflict. Author Maribeth Fischer of Rehoboth Beach drew from her experience teaching English as a second language.

Fischer will be on hand to talk about "The Language of Good-Bye."

There is no fee to participate and no registration required. Wilmington's Ninth Street Book Shop has copies of the books for sale.

This books and authors program is part of Delaware Humanities Forum's 35th anniversary celebration, *Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Frame*. Contact Rita Truschel at (302) 652-3315 for more information.



## Literature & Medicine:

### Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®

DHF offers award-winning program for a third year

DHF welcomes the third class of participants taking part in the national award-winning program for health care professionals, Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care®. Health care professionals participate in group reading and discussion sessions that aid in communicating and interacting with patients in the clinical setting. Selected readings provide insight on cultural differences, compassion for patients, and help to renew job satisfaction. Professionals from all aspects of health care are invited to participate—physicians, nurses, administrators, clergy, social workers, and therapists working within the hospital, home, and public health setting.

This program is open to employees of the Christiana Care Health System. Contact Program Administrator Margaret G. Winslow at (302) 657-0650. Visit [Maine Humanities Council](#), program creator, for more information.

## Last Stop for *Between Fences*

### Milton Historical Society Hosts Exhibit

Don't miss your chance to visit *Between Fences* at [Main Street Delaware City Arts Center](#). The exhibit is open today, May 1, until 8pm, and is open **tomorrow, May 2 from Noon to 5pm**, then closes in preparation for its move to Milton.

*Between Fences* moves next to the [Milton Historical Society](#), on view from May 15 to July 11. Also on view are historic documents, photographs, and objects. Join MHS for their opening reception on Friday, May 15, from 5 to 7pm. In conjunction with the exhibit, MHS will host weekly gallery talks, a kids' scavenger hunt, and a self-guided tour of Milton.

Special events include a performance by *Distant Voices Touring Company* on Saturday, May 30 at 7pm at the Milton Theatre. Two lectures are scheduled. Michael Morgan will present, *Fences and Pigs: The Range War of Southern Delaware*, on Friday, May 1, in anticipation of the exhibit. On Friday, June 12, Michael Dixon will discuss *The Mason-Dixon Line: The Story Behind the Boundary*.

Join the Milton Historical Society on Saturday, July 11 for their workshop, *Fence Me IN!*, with Libby Zando of Zando Designs. Zando will discuss the use of fences and plant materials in garden design in this hands-on presentation, occurring the same day as the Milton Garden Tour.

Click [here](#) for more information.

## Call for Presenters 2009

### DHF seeks scholars for its Speakers Programs

The Delaware Humanities Forum is actively seeking scholars to facilitate lecture/discussion presentations for its Speakers Bureau and Visiting Scholars Program. Speakers Bureau and Visiting Scholar programs are utilized by all types of community groups including schools, civic associations, service clubs, historical societies, senior centers, and libraries. Both programs reach a wide statewide audience and our speakers promote a better understanding of the world in which we live.

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about the Speakers Bureau and Visiting Scholars Programs, to view our current offerings, and to download the application. Completed applications should be postmarked by July 20, 2009.

Contact the Program Administrator at (302) 657-0650 for more information.

### **Thank you for your interest in the Delaware Humanities Forum.**

As mentioned previously, the Forum is celebrating its 35th Anniversary this year. It is thanks to you, for your interest in and support of the humanities in Delaware over the years, that it is possible for us to reach this milestone.

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Forum today by making a donation.

Friends of the Forum are the first to find out about opportunities, such as our Humanities Salons, and through the generous support of our Friends, the Forum offers nearly all of our programs free of charge to the citizens of Delaware.

We can now accept your donations online! Click [here](#) to make your gift now.

### **Did You**

May Day is celebrated on the first day of May. It has a rich and, at times, controversial history. Up until the 19th century, May Day was a celebration of spring, with the garlanded maypole as its symbol.

However, since the late 1880s, the modern day anniversary recounts the campaign for the eight hour work day in the United States. With the technological advances of the Industrial Revolution adding physical burdens to laborers, the rising

## Know?

working class called for a regulated work day, to be established on May 1, 1886. Rallies marked the day's events and it was then that May Day became the symbol of the working class and labor demonstrations both in the US and abroad.

David Goldway, "A Neglected Page of History: The Story of May Day." *Science & Society*, vol. 69, no. 2, April 2005, 218 - 224.

### About the Delaware Humanities Forum

The humanities-subjects which include literature, ethics, political science and history-help people make a connection between their own lives and other people, cultures, and ideas. Through grants and public program offerings, the Delaware Humanities Forum builds bridges to connect the daily life and work of people to the universe of human experience, thought, and imagination. The Forum brings the public together with cultural, educational, and civic institutions statewide, and focuses on issues of public interest and concern.

As a state division of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Delaware Humanities Forum supports organizations by awarding grants and implementing project initiatives such as lectures, symposia, exhibitions, classroom programs, and media projects. Your non-profit organization, school, library, or government agency may qualify for funding from the Forum and can obtain subject matter experts for lectures and presentations. To learn more about funding opportunities and the other resources available through the Delaware Humanities Forum, visit our website at <http://www.dhf.org> or call 302.657.0650 or toll free 800.752.2060.

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