

Delaware Humanities Forum

Forum Footnotes

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Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Forum

Dear Friend,

As you may recall, the Delaware Humanities 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. As we approach the new year, we are pleased to share great news about the Forum and look forward to seeing you at our statewide celebrations throughout the year.

LITERATURE AND MEDICINE

Humanities at the Heart of Healthcare

Today, the science of medicine allows patients to come and go from the doctor's office almost anonymously, prescriptions and lab results in hand.

The humanities aspect of medicine allows caregivers and patients to connect with each other as people, including those of different cultural backgrounds, economic status, or religions, which is critical in palliative care, hospice, times of crisis and moments of celebration. Literature allows people to experience worlds outside their own understanding. Patients, like books, require interpretation, and it is the humanities - the traditionally interpretative disciplines - that offer caregivers an effective way of understanding patients and their stories.



In This Issue

[THE HUMANITY OF HEALTHCARE](#)

[EXCLUSIVE CELEBRATIONS](#)

[BETWEEN FENCES](#)

Literature & Medicine: Humanities at the Heart of Health Care is an award-winning, hospital-based, scholar-led humanities reading and discussion program for health care professionals that aims to improve patient-caregiver interaction. Participants explore works of poetry, fiction, drama, and non-fiction that offer health care workers, policy

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makers, hospital trustees, and other staff an opportunity to reflect on what is at the heart of healthcare.

In 2007, the Delaware Humanities Forum introduced the program to the First State, in partnership with the Delaware Academy of Medicine and the Christiana Healthcare System in Newark. We are pleased to announce that the program continues in 2009 and will include Kent and Sussex County participants for the first time. Special thanks to the Welfare Foundation for partially underwriting this year's program.

Whether you are a medical professional, caregiver, or lay person, we encourage you to read, **Imagine What It's Like**, a literature and medicine anthology, to experience the worlds of patients and their caregivers.

HUMANITIES "SALONS"



Anniversary Celebration Continues with Select Statewide Gatherings

Following a successful two-day anniversary celebration in October that included an elegant dinner and a day-long symposium, the Forum launched the first of a series of **Humanities Salons**.

In early December, Chairman Kim Burdick hosted 25 guests at her home, the historic Hale-Byrnes House for an evening of 18th century history, music, and delicacies. (See image.)

Additional Humanities Salons will take place throughout the year at the private homes of our Council members and other Friends of the Forum. **We encourage you to become a Friend of the Forum today and take part in our year-long celebration.**

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION EXHIBIT IN DELAWARE

Good Neighbors Make Good Fences

The Center for the Creative Arts (CCArts) in Yorklyn, Delaware, is one of four venues selected to host "Between Fences," a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition that explores the cultural impact of fences throughout American history. The exhibit will be on display at CCArts January 16 through March 6, 2009.



Ongoing events include docent-guided tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon, Wednesday evenings at 6 pm, and Saturdays at 1 pm, starting January 16 and continuing through March 6. Tyvek panels artistically painted by community members will be displayed on the split-rail fence surrounding CCArts, thus creating a "Good Neighbors Make Good Fences" public art installation. Artwork by photographer Kathleen Buckalew featuring American fences and walls will also be on view, as will historic photographs of the Yorklyn area, and photos taken during the 2003 flood, which created a barrier for CCArts to overcome. Books and activities on the fences theme will be available in the "Front Yard" reading area, and a PowerPoint presentation created by the Delaware Center for Horticulture showing fences and walls in local garden settings will run continuously.

For more information, visit

<http://www.ccart.org/BetweenFences.php>

DID YOU KNOW?

Spanish New Year's Eve (*Nochevieja*, or *Fin de Año*) celebrations usually begin with a family dinner, a traditional countdown to midnight, followed by the eating of twelve grapes, one on each chime of the clock. Spanish sparkling wine is called *cava*, which is used in a traditional toast, along with cider. The morning meal usually includes *chocolate con churros* (hot chocolate and fried pastry).

In Japan, people traditionally clean their home and prepare decorations to welcome the new year's god toshigami (年神). Buddhist temples ring their bells 108 times on midnight to repent ill thoughts.

When you think of your year-end, tax-deductible donations, think of us!

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Forum today by making a donation. Your check, payable to "Delaware Humanities Forum," can be mailed to the address at the bottom of this email.

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

Sincerely,

Marilyn P. Whittington
Executive Director
Delaware Humanities Forum

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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