



DELAWARE  
Humanities  
FORUM

VOL. 27 | NO. 3 | FALL 2003

# ON THE WAY

The Official Newsletter of the Delaware Humanities Forum

## Speakers Bureau Open for Service!

If you are one of the 200 different community organizations that have used the Speaker's Bureau, you already know what a wonderful program it is. For those groups that have not had the opportunity to enroll – now is a great time to participate. Our new membership program, upcoming expanded catalog, and corporate benefactor enable the Forum to offer more Speakers Bureau programs to more groups than ever before.

### Open for New Memberships

The Forum has opened its Speakers Bureau program for the period November 1 to October 31, 2003 to organizations that want the opportunity to connect their constituents with ideas in the humanities. Delaware organizations can explore the world through informal talks and stimulating presentations delivered by popular local community scholars, such as Ed Okunowicz and Gary Wray, and university academics such as James Newton and Jim Soles. In addition to thought-provoking and discussion-led talks on humanities topics, some speakers deliver first-person interpretations of historical characters, such as Valerie Boyer's presentation as abolitionist Charlotte Forten Genshe, and Ron Wilmington as Delaware baseball great Judy Johnson.

Benefits of membership in Speakers Bureau include two free talks booked from the Speakers Bureau catalog, "Early Bird" invitations to special events and packaged programs for your organization, and a subscription to our quarterly publication, "On the Way." Organization members receive more than \$800 in services this year for modest annual dues of \$50.

The Speakers Bureau program is an integral part of the Forum's mission to connect people, cultures and ideas through the humanities. We consistently receive positive feedback on the quality of the programs. One

member from a New Castle County AARP Chapter described the Speakers Bureau as "expanding horizons of some people who need it." The Seaford District Library wrote, "Each of [the] speakers exceeded our expectations and provided a wealth of enlightening information." And from a Dover venue, "...one woman said it 'has changed my life!'"

Current humanities subjects available from the Forum's catalog include: Art and Architecture, Language and Literature, Sound and Stage, The African American Experience, Delmarva History and Native Peoples, Global Issues and World History, U.S. History, Ethics and Public Policy, Pastimes Old and New, Comparative Religion, and Women's Lives. More than 100 talks by 54 speakers are listed in the Forum's current Speakers Bureau catalog.

The number of available memberships for organizations is limited, so do not delay enrolling in the program. Becoming a member is easy – refer to the enrollment form on page five of this newsletter.



Ron Wilmington portrays  
Judy Johnson



### New Speakers – New Catalog

The Delaware Humanities Forum is always interested in enhancing its programs by adding new and exciting presentations. With that in mind, the Forum began searching for additional speakers for its expanded program catalog for 2003-2004 (available January 2003). More than 24 new talks were submitted for consideration such as "Wilmington's Waterfront: Past, Present, Future," "Israel/Palestine: The Human Side of Conflict and Occupation," and "Quiet Moments: Art of Andrew Wyeth." Later this fall, the Forum and a volunteer panel will audition the speakers, ensuring that member organizations enjoy quality presentations with comprehensive, educational humanities content and balanced perspectives.

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## DELAWARE HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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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 imagination. 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.*

## Delaware Humanities Council Welcomes New Director

The governing council of the Delaware Humanities Forum has announced the selection of a new Executive Director, **Marilyn P. Whittington** of Wilmington.

Ms. Whittington most recently worked as a licensed real estate agent for Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors. She is former special assistant to the regional administrator for the federal Small Business Administration's Region III, former special assistant to the State Secretary of Services to Children, Youth, and Families and director of constituent relations for Michael Castle when he was governor of Delaware.

Ms. Whittington has also served on the boards of community organizations such as the YWCA of New Castle County, the United Way of Delaware and Planned Parenthood of Delaware. She most recently served as



Chair of the Delaware Humanities Council, which is the Forum's governing board. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Delaware.

Ms. Whittington can be reached at (302) 657-0650 or email [dhfdirector@dhf.org](mailto:dhfdirector@dhf.org).

## New Board Officers and Council Member

The governing Council of the Delaware Humanities Forum announced the election of a new member and new officers:

**Leland S. "Lee" Jones** of Rehoboth Beach was recently elected to Council membership. Mr. Jones has been a director, producer, writer and performer in radio, TV, film and multimedia. He has produced and directed both network and syndicated programs in public affairs, education and sports. His award-winning work on the NBC-TV "Exploring Series" earned the Peabody, the Thomas Alva Edison, the Golden One and the Ohio State. His documentaries include, "The Hurricane Squadron" for the U.S. Navy, "War on Crime," for the New York City Police Department, and "Blizzard of '88," which premiered on the Discovery Channel. Mr. Jones has served on the board of Veterans Bedside Network, and was a founding board member of the Rehoboth Beach Film Society.



New council member Lee Jones at the beach.

**Michael E. Miller** succeeded to Chair from Vice Chair, and **R. Thorpe Moeckel** was elected to the newly created board position of Treasurer.

## Speakers Bureau Open for Service!

*(continued from page 1)*

### New Sponsor

The Delaware Humanities Forum expresses its gratitude for the generous contribution from AstraZeneca in support of the Speakers Bureau. The contribution allows to Forum to continue to offer quality humanities programs to groups throughout

the state of Delaware. The demand for Speakers Bureau consistently exceeds the Forum's means to provide it, but with the support of businesses such as AstraZeneca, we can continue connecting people, cultures and ideas across cultural and demographic boundaries. ♦

## Council Awards Grants to Delaware Nonprofits

The Delaware Humanities Forum recently awarded six grants totaling \$33,000 in support of cultural projects throughout Delaware.

- **"Behind the Scenes: An Independent Film Case Study"** by the Rehoboth Beach Film Society (Sussex County) \$5,000 toward seminars that explore the craft of filmmaking from scripting and production through the resulting impact of filmmaking techniques on viewers. **November 5-10, 2002.**

- **"Picturing Chivalry: Knights, Ladies, and Castles"** by the Biggs Museum of American Art (Kent County) \$3,000 toward an exhibition and programs exploring the medieval/renaissance period history and literature. **October - January 15, 2002.**

- **"Passing the Torch: An Interdisciplinary Look at a World Poised for Change"** by the University of Delaware Honors Program (New Castle County) \$6,000 toward a public lecture series by individuals who will share their perspectives on the changing nature of work in their academic fields or professions in the 21st century. Includes poets, journalists, autobiographers, social scientists, and oral historians. **February - May 2003.**

- **"In Celebration of Samuel Beckett"** by the University of Delaware College of Arts & Sciences (New Castle County) \$6,000 toward a series of presentations, lectures, panels and films celebrating the works by and about Samuel Beckett. **October 8-11, 2003.**

- **"African American Education in Delaware"** by Hagley Museum and Library (New Castle County) \$6,000 toward the completion of two educational films about the history of African-American education in Delaware and the movement to preserve, restore and reclaim former schools as sites of culture and heritage.

- **"Today's Challenges in Achieving Human Rights"** by Quintin E. Primo Jr. Lecture Series (New Castle County) \$7,000 toward a public lecture by Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. **January 20, 2003.**

Grant applications submitted to the Forum are reviewed four times per year. **The next funding cycle deadline for receipt of a draft proposal is January 1.** For more information about the grants program, contact program officer Valerie Hailey at (302) 657-0650 or email [vhailey@dea.net](mailto:vhailey@dea.net). ♦

### Deadlines for Mini and Regular Grants

DRAFT PROPOSAL (REQUIRED)	FINAL PROPOSAL	DECISION BY
January 1	February 1	March 15
April 1	May 1	June 15
July 1	August 1	September 15
October 1	November 1	December 15

## Benjamin Franklin Premiers on PBS This Month



Richard Easton as Franklin

"Benjamin Franklin," an innovative documentary biography, premieres November 19 from 9-11 p.m. and concludes the following night from 9-10:30 p.m. on PBS (check local listings). Tony Award-winning Broadway actor Richard Easton portrays Franklin, in a series that follows Franklin's career from his humble origins in Boston to prosperity as a self-made businessman, publisher and civic citizen in Philadelphia, to international superstardom as a scientist and revolutionary, a founding father and America's first diplomat to France.

Considered an American genius who revolutionized his times with the scope of his intellect, the charm of his wit, and the passion of his belief that ordinary men, and women, could shape their world, Franklin became the most famous American of his day, helping to give birth to the modern age and to a whole new nation. In the PBS documentary, Easton speaks as Franklin directly and intimately to the viewer. The series is scripted entirely with Franklin's own words.

A companion web site for "Benjamin Franklin" at [PBS.org](http://PBS.org) provides resources for additional information on Franklin's life and times, his wit and wisdom. ♦

## 2002 DONORS

*The generosity supported our mission to connect people, cultures and ideas by making humanities programs available and accessible to the people of Delaware. Thank you. Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, however in compiling such a list, omissions and inaccuracies sometimes occur. Please accept our apology and advise us of any errors by calling (302) 657-0610 or email [donations@delaware.net](mailto:donations@delaware.net). Donors kind made contributions between November 1, 2001 and October 1, 2002.*

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Sublimation School  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
St. Paul's United Methodist Men  
Sussex General Women  
Wilmington Place

**CONFUSED**  
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Sports Hall of Fame  
John Spivey Thru Summer Chapter  
National Society of the Colonial  
Dames in Delaware  
Sussex Charitable & Social Club  
Standa Jewish Community  
The English Speaking Union,  
Delaware Branch  
Women's Club of the Netherlands

**DISAPPOINTED**  
Beverly We Care School  
Greenville School  
Cherry Lodge #27 BOF  
Delaware Geological Society  
Old-Care Preschool and Daycare  
Mid County Senior Center  
Old Swedes Church/  
Hendrickson House  
Preschool No-Care  
Old Church Danvers  
WPA  
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Anastasia  
**DISAPPOINTED**  
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Council of Reading  
Cassanova Area Chapter No. 175 AARP  
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Sports Hall of Fame  
Delaware State Education  
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Kareem Mitchell  
Midwest Senior Center  
Midwest Lions Club  
Midwest Senior Club  
Pvt Nat. Homeowners Association  
Rehoboth Beach Historical Society  
Rehoboth Bire's Luncheon Club  
Seaside Inn Bookstore  
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AARP Inc.  
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Lithing Learning  
St. Georges Historical Society  
The Dover Art League Inc.  
The Friends of Christiana Library  
The Friends of the Midtown  
Public Library  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Women's Club of the Netherlands

**Dover Lecture Series**  
**DISAPPOINTED**  
The Dover Print Company

**DISAPPOINTED**  
Edgewood Village of Dover  
Woods College

**DISAPPOINTED**  
Rigo Museum of American Art

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Sus. Hubert & Pauline Gooden State,  
Queen

**American Innovations  
Charitable**  
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Rehoboth Outlook

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Dover Post  
Hampden Inn  
Hampden Hotel  
Herring Inn & Golf Club  
Just in Time Restaurant  
Rehoboth Beach Blue Festival  
Seaside Inn Motel  
Willys Chevrolet  
WYCL

## Dover Lecture Series Returns by Popular Demand

The Forum and the **Dover Post Company** are pleased to present the second annual "People You Should Know" series this winter in Dover. The series commemorates Black History and Women's History months with free presentations on historical figures and educational topics. Last year, the Forum offered six consecutive lecture and presentations for free on Thursdays in February and March. We expect to follow a similar format this year, and may even add a bonus evening of free, educational entertainment. ♦



"...Victorian Lady" was one of six live presentations at the Schwartz Center.

## Speakers Bureau Member Enrollment Form

Becoming a member is easy -- completely fill out the form below, detach and mail with your check or money order to: Delaware Humanities Forum, 100 W. 10th Street, Suite 1009, Wilmington, DE 19801.

Please note, that while the Forum welcomes charitable contributions from all individuals and groups, Speakers Bureau membership is available only to Delaware organizations and businesses. The membership period is November 1 through October 31. Annual dues are \$50 for nonprofit organizations, and \$100 for businesses. Membership benefits include two free Speakers Bureau events, discounts on additional bookings, Early Bird invitations to special events and programs, and a subscription to the Forum's newsletter. The number of available memberships is limited, so we encourage you to respond quickly.

Thank you for your support by becoming a member of the Speakers Bureau. Confirmation of your membership will be mailed within two weeks.

I am not enrolling as a member organization, but would like to make a fully tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support Delaware Humanities Forum programs. I have written my contact and acknowledgement information below.

Please enroll as a Speakers Bureau member organization:

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person (Mr.) (Ms.) (Mrs.) (Dr.): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues enclosed: (check one)  Nonprofit (\$50)  Business (\$100)

Mail to: Delaware Humanities Forum, 100 W. 10th St., Ste. 1009, Wilmington, DE 19801

FALL 2002 | ON THE WAY

## NEH Awards Local Grants

Congratulations to two local National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipients: Jay Hutto of the University of Delaware has been awarded a federal grant for "Shakespeare: Inancing the Test," a five week summer seminar for 15 school teachers on Shakespeare at the University of Delaware and in Stratford-upon-Avon, U.K., and the New Castle Historical Society for a preservation assessment of the textile, decorative arts, and archival collections and a survey of the environmental conditions of the society's two historic structures. ♦

## YOUR LETTERS

We like to hear from our friends, so we are adding a new feature to every newsletter, "Your Letters." We encourage you to write to us about Humanities Council programming, or any matter pertaining to the humanities in Delaware. We will also experiment with color and content in future issues our newsletter, "On the Way." Please bear with our experimentation, enjoy expanded humanities content, and most of all, let us know what you think!

We value your feedback. ♦

## Forum Lending Library

The Delaware Humanities Forum has a collection of videos available for two-week rental on educational topics in the humanities, and for Council-sponsored projects. VHS Videos such as "First Vote," on the women's



Videos are available for schools and groups.

suffrage movement, "Freedom's Edge," about the Underground Railroad, and "If You Lived Here You'd Be Home

Now," on the artist Jack Lewis and Bridgeton, Del., are available to individuals, groups, and schools. Select videos are available for purchase. Call (302) 657-0650 or email [vhmcc@dca.net](mailto:vhmcc@dca.net) for more information. ♦

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# PEOPLE, CULTURES & IDEAS

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The year 2003 marks our thirtieth anniversary at the Delaware Humanities Forum. As the new horizon approaches it is an opportunity to both commemorate our past achievements and to look to our future. Since our beginnings we have provided hundreds of grants and thousands of programs exploring the humanities in America...important ways for us to know and understand our culture, our history, and ourselves.

The humanities are important to me as an individual as well as a member of the Council.

My professional and personal lives have been enriched and changed for the better through experiences in the humanities. Whether designing an exhibit, writing a publication, interviewing an artist or community scholar, selecting an activity for my family or finding common ground for a discussion of difficult issues, the



humanities have long provided the basic reference points of values and meaning in my life. The humanities have further given me the opportunity to explore new perspectives, learn from other's experiences, and connect daily life to the complex world around us. Sharing these opportunities is possibly the most fundamental value our organization can provide to the constituents we serve.

I would also like to welcome Marilyn Whittington as our new Executive Director.

Ms. Whittington's experiences as a Council member, a professional administrator, and an active participant in her community will help us fulfill our mission effectively and efficiently. I look forward to working with her, other Council members, and Forum staff in bringing high quality humanities programming to the people of Delaware. — *Michael F. Miller* >



DELAWARE  
**Humanities**  
FORUM

*Connecting people, culture and ideas*

Community Service Building  
100 W. 10th St., Suite 1009  
Wilmington, DE 19801-0817

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Time for a Change!** Please let us know by checking the appropriate box. Make corrections to the mailing label and return it to the address above, or email to [slavin@dhca.net](mailto:slavin@dhca.net). Thank you.

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