

Meet up at the LBC on Thursday afternoons for socializing and speakers. A different topic will be discussed each week. The **Thursday Speaker Series is FREE and open to everyone**, no membership required to attend. If you have a topic you would like to present, contact our staff to submit a Speaker Proposal Form.

What's New for the City of Mount Vernon

Tom Wieseler

Thursday, September 10th at 1:00

This talk is to engage citizens in conversation with Mayor, Tom Wieseler. Tom will review ongoing projects for the City of Mount Vernon including Summer project completions and items that are still in process. Tom seeks citizen input on various upcoming topics and gauge interest in future long range projects. We will discuss the future/vision of our community including what we want to be and what we don't want to be.

The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art: Home of Grant Wood

Sean Ulmer

Thursday, September 17th at 1:00

Join Cedar Rapids Museum of Art Executive Director Sean Ulmer as he discusses Iowa's most famous artistic son. The CRMA possesses the world's largest collection of works by Wood and continues to promote his life and work to current and future generations. Learn more about Wood and his legacy from someone who has studied Wood's work for more than 20 years.

University of Iowa's Writers Workshop: Reading and Conversation

Nina Dragičević and Sang Young Park

Thursday, September 24th at 1:00

Join us for a reading and conversation with Nina Dragičević, a poet, sound artist, and sociologist from Slovenia, and Sang Young Park, a prominent South Korean novelist and screenwriter. Dragičević and Park are currently taking part in the International Writing Program's 59th Fall Residency at the University of Iowa. Cate Dicharry, Director of the International Writers Workshop, will moderate the session.

Indian Creek Nature Center: Who We Are and What We Do

Sarah Botkin

Thursday, October 1st at 1:00

Indian Creek Nature Center is a leader in environmental education and land stewardship. From fieldtrips to Maple Syrup festivals, the Nature Center offers a variety of ways for people to connect and be inspired by nature. This presentation will provide you with a little of the history of the Nature Center and show you how the mission of the organization is in practice every day.

American Civil War Oregon Trail 1840's

Barry Grove

Thursday, October 8th at 1:00

This presentation depicts the life of a common soldier. Content includes uniforms, music, diet, battlefield tactics, personal affects (toothbrush, razor, pip, money, comb), weapons, medical treatments, and equipment. One segment introduces Lewis Baker (reenactment). Baker was from Kentucky, fought for the confederacy, a resident of Marion for 45 years, died in 1931, and was buried in Marion, Iowa.

Understanding Economic Inequality in the US

Todd Knoop

Thursday, October 15th at 1:00

Economic inequality is driving much of our political polarization and social conflict. This presentation focus on two questions. First, how much has economic inequality in the US (and in other countries) worsened? And second, what can we say about why economic inequality is worsening?

Iowa's Trumpeter Swans: A Conservation Success Story

Anna Buckardt Thomas

Thursday, October 22nd at 1:00

Trumpeter Swans are an iconic wetland bird in Iowa, but they were missing from the state for over a century. Learn about how the DNR and partners worked to bring swans back to the state in one of Iowa's epic conservation success stories. Through many years of habitat restoration, captive breeding, and reintroduction, we now have a self-sustaining wild population of breeding trumpeter swans across the state and host thousands of wintering swans each year. Join the state Avian Ecologist to learn more about the comeback of Trumpeter Swans and how we can continue to trumpet the cause for wetlands in Iowa.

Etched in Stone: Mount Vernon Cemetery, 1851-present

Mary Evans, Teresa Cox, Ruth Horton, Tim Legore, Mike Woods

Thursday, October 29th at 1:00

The Mount Vernon Cemetery was established by the Methodist Church in 1851 and transferred to the city in 1872. The cemetery is a biography of the people who founded and maintained the prosperity of Mount Vernon. The PowerPoint will highlight a few of the stories behind the gravestones: the pioneers who broke the prairie sod, the soldiers who served their country, and the families who called Mount Vernon home. We will also touch on the preservation efforts of the commission and future goals.

Mission Héliographique Reviste'

Christine Flavin

Thursday, November 5th at 1:00

For the past decade, I have retraced the photographs made in France by the Mission Héliographique photographers in 1851, who were commissioned to document and preserve the country's ancient and medieval monuments. More than 175 years later, I rephotographed many of the same sites to explore how societies evolve, preserve, and alter their cultural heritage. To strengthen this historical connection, I used the original 19th-century salt-print process, learned from photographer Mark Osterman at the George Eastman Museum. Guided by the digitized Héliographique archive at the Musée d'Orsay, I made four trips to France. The photographs presented here are a small selection from this decade-long project.

Ted's Tips On Making The Best Caramels That You've Ever Eaten

Ted Carpenter

Thursday, November 12th at 1:00

Master Caramel Maker Ted Carpenter shares his 50+ year journey to create the perfect caramel recipe. Starting with a recipe that he found in a Betty Crocker cookbook, he will deconstruct the science behind making caramel, so you don't have to spend decades making 100s of batches and researching every aspect of what makes caramel so good. Ted will include his tips on why humidity, equipment, ingredients, temperature, and time all impact the caramel-making process. And as a bonus, everyone who attends this master course will receive a sample of his peanut butter, brown sugar, and chocolate caramels!

What is Acupuncture?

Sara Pamela Star

Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00

Join Board Certified Acupuncturist, Sara Pamela Star, and learn how acupuncture is an effective form of health care that has evolved into a complete and holistic medical system, helping millions of people get well and stay healthy. We will explore what it treats and how it works.

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