

MACOMB COUNTY'S PLACE FOR DISCOVERY

THE ALBERT L. LORENZO

Cultural Center

AT MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE



THE 1940s: THROUGH THE WAR AND BEYOND



MARCH 2—MAY 7, 2016

WED, FRI & SAT, 10AM—4PM

THUR, 10AM—8PM

Speakers and programs are subject to change. Events are free of charge and held in the Lorenzo Cultural Center (44575 Garfield, Clinton Twp.) unless otherwise noted. Pre-registration is required for all presentations. Event and activity descriptions as well as information about advance registration, group tours, directions and parking are available at www.LorenzoCulturalCenter.com or by calling 586.445.7348.

PRESENTATIONS

Preregistration is requested for all presentations; please call 586.445.7348 or email culturalcenter@macomb.edu to register. All presentations are free unless otherwise marked. Presentations typically last one hour.

The Arsenal of Democracy: Detroit in World War II

Mar. 3 (Thur.) 7pm

A. J. Baime, journalist and author of the Michigan Notable Book, *The Arsenal of Democracy: FDR, Detroit, and an Epic Quest to Arm an America at War*, tells the story of the dramatic transformation of Detroit from "motortown" to the "Arsenal of Democracy," highlighting Edsel Ford, who rebelled against his pacifist father, Henry Ford, to build the industrial miracle Willow Run, a crucial component in winning the war.

The Horror That No One Wanted to Remember: Detroit's Race Riot of 1943

Mar. 5 (Sat.) 1pm

People in metropolitan Detroit remember vividly the 1967 riots, but a quarter-century before, Detroit had a riot that was much more viciously racial, requiring the intervention of the U. S. Army in the middle of World War II to end it. Jack Lessenberry, commentator on WUOM-FM, columnist for the *Metro Times*, and head of the journalism faculty at Wayne State University, takes a look back at a terrifying time.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche: Early Civil Rights and Peace Pioneer

Mar. 9 (Wed.) 11am

Barbara Jones of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University profiles the life of Ralph Bunche, a Detroit native who spent his life aiding the struggle of oppressed people in the United States and abroad, and who in 1950, became the first African American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Tin Can Army: Kids on the World War II Home Front

Mar. 10 (Thur.) 11am and 1pm

Kids on the home front were part of the U. S. fight in World War II, taking part in scrap drives, planting victory gardens and making do with what they had. This interactive, engaging session with presenter Gerald Wykes will incorporate props, dress up, music and more.

The Michigan National Guard at D-Day and Beyond

Mar. 11 (Fri.) 11am

Dan Heaton, author of three books on aviation history and current member of the Air National Guard, gives an overview of key actions by Michigan soldiers and airmen during World War II and the creation of the modern National Guard after the war.

The Baruch Plan: The First Attempt at Nuclear Disarmament

Mar. 12 (Sat.) 1pm

Macomb Community College Professor Elliott L. Meyrowitz, J.D., Ph.D., discusses the U.S. proposal for the international control of nuclear weapons and the avoidance of a future nuclear war that was presented at the first meeting of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission in June 1946.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League

Mar. 16 (Wed.) 11am

Mary Moore played second base for professional women's baseball teams the Springfield Sallies and the Battle Creek Belles. She will present on how and why the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was founded, along with her personal experiences as a player.

Detroit: Arsenal of Democracy

Mar. 17 (Thur.) 11am

Armed forces veteran John Lind, founder of the Detroit Arsenal of Democracy Museum, will share how Detroit earned the moniker "Arsenal of Democracy," as well as discuss the region's continuing role as the defense corridor of America, building even more than airplanes and tanks.

The Marshall Plan: America's Finest Hour

Mar. 17 (Thur.) 1pm

Gary Flemming, Ph.D., professor of political science at Macomb Community College, will discuss the Marshall Plan. The lecture will focus on how the United States, in an attempt to relieve the suffering of post-World War II Europe, used foreign aid and loans to restructure the economic and political systems of the western European countries.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Enrollee of 1941

Mar. 18 (Fri.) 11am and 1pm

Go to work for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the nation as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps to help rebuild America's natural and human resources! Join CCC Enrollee Bill Williams (Michael P. Deren as The Past In Person) for an informative and fun-filled look at an organization that changed America on the eve of World War II.

"Knit Your Bit" with Crafty Lady Trio

Mar. 19 (Sat.) 10am

Also offered Mar. 31 (Thur.) 1pm

During World War II, knitting was one of the ways individuals on the home front supported the war effort. Learn about "Knit Your Bit" efforts during World War II; then instructors from Crafty Lady Trio will teach new knitters and crocheters how to make a scarf that will be donated to a veteran through The National World War II Museum's Knit Your Bit project. Please bring three skeins of worsted-weight yarn in two colors, and size 8US knitting needles or size I (5.5) crochet hook. Limited supplies will be available for purchase. Prior knitting or crocheting experience not required.

How Detroit Saved the World: The Willow Run Story

Mar. 19 (Sat.) 1pm

Randy Hotton, professional pilot and former executive director of the Yankee Air Museum, tells the Willow Run story, starting with Roosevelt's call in 1940 to build 50,000 airplanes per year, through the involvement of the auto industry and ultimately the construction of the Willow Run Bomber Plant. He will discuss the plant's role during the war, as well as future plans for the site.

Forging Thunderbolts: Detroit Mobilizes for War

Mar. 30 (Wed.) 11am

Professor Gregory Sumner, J.D., Ph.D., of University of Detroit Mercy, and author of the book *Detroit in World War II*, discusses the miraculous conversion of industry in the Motor City to war production, highlighting the contributions of Albert Kahn, Henry Ford and Rosie the Riveter.

Everyday Life in the Arsenal of Democracy

Mar. 30 (Wed.) 1pm

Professor Sumner returns to continue the story of wartime Detroit, with a look at its air raid drills and scrap drives, "Victory" beer, dance ballrooms and sports culture as Joe Louis and Hank Greenberg did their bit for Uncle Sam. All this was capped off with a party thrown by the city upon the defeat of the Axis.

Rosie the Riveters and Their Stories 🌍

Mar. 31 (Thur.) 11am

Past National President of the American Rosie the Riveter Association Donnaleen Lanktree shares the stories she's collected through the years from actual Rosies about the jobs they performed, their experiences in the workforce and the lasting influence of that time in their lives.

"Knit Your Bit" with Crafty Lady Trio

Mar. 31 (Thur.) 1pm

Also offered Mar. 19 (Sat.) at 10am

Jackie Robinson: Making it Around the Bases 🌍

Apr. 2 (Sat.) 1pm

Michael V. Placco, professor of history at Macomb Community College, talks about the life and times of Jack Roosevelt Robinson, from his birth in rural Georgia in 1919, through his distinguished baseball career of the 1940s and 1950s, concluding with his death in 1972 as an American hero and civil rights pioneer, the only player whose number, 42, is retired league-wide.

Plant a Victory Garden

Apr. 6 (Wed.) 11am

During World War II, Americans were urged to grow their own food to help ease food shortages. Learn about Victory Gardens, then plant seeds to take home and start your own garden.

Real to Reel: *Green for Danger* 🌍

Apr. 7 (Thur.) 1pm

(91 minutes)

Michael Broyles, professor of history at Macomb Community College, screens *Green for Danger*, a murder mystery set in an Elizabethan Manor house converted to a hospital in rural Britain during World War II. Period items on display will help illustrate the discussion.

Detroit's Cold War: The Origins of Postwar Conservatism 🌍

Apr. 8 (Fri.) 11am

Colleen Doody, Ph.D., professor of history at DePaul University and author of the book *Detroit's Cold War*, uses Detroit as a case study, looking at how tensions within the American public led to the development of an anti-communist, conservative movement in the aftermath of World War II.

The Holocaust and the Nuremberg Trials: Their Impact on International Law 🌍

Apr. 9 (Sat.) 1pm

Professor Elliott L. Meyrowitz, J.D., Ph.D., returns to discuss how the Holocaust and the Nuremberg trials influenced the development of international criminal law and how the Nuremberg trials served as models for the Genocide Convention (1948), The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Geneva Convention on the Laws and Customs of War (1949).

The End and the Beginning: Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

Apr. 13 (Wed.) 11am

In the 1940s, American art underwent a radical transformation that resulted in the decline of realist painting and the rise of abstract expressionism. This illustrated lecture by Professor Michael J. Farrell, Ph.D., of Art House Tours, will focus on the relationship between, and the art of, Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock.

Real to Reel: *Hyde Park on the Hudson* 🌍

Apr. 14 (Thur.) 1pm
(95 minutes)

Hyde Park on the Hudson dramatizes the close personal relationship between Margaret "Daisy" Suckley and her cousin and childhood friend, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, against the backdrop of the 1939 visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Hyde Park. Elton Weintz, professor of history at Macomb Community College, facilitates the film.

A Hidden Child 🌍

Apr. 15 (Fri.) 11am

Erna Blitzer Gorman relates her experiences as a hidden child during World War II. She and her family were caught in Poland during the Nazi invasion, unable to return to their home in France, and spent two years hiding in a barn in Ukraine.

Big Band Swing Dance

with the Rhythm Society Orchestra

Apr. 16 (Sat.) Doors Open at 6pm

Lesson at 6:30pm | Open Dancing at 7pm

Tickets \$15; Groups of 10 or more, \$12.

Call the Box Office at 586.286.2222 for group pricing. Individual tickets may be purchased by phone or online at www.MacombCenter.com.

Bring your dancing shoes and come dressed for a swinging good time as the Rhythm Society Orchestra recreates a World War II-era USO Dance, complete with period costumes. Cash bar; light refreshments available for purchase.

This activity is funded in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council.

Creating a Community for Defense Workers and Veterans in World War II

Apr. 20 (Wed.) 11am

Eric Follo, professor emeritus at Oakland University and former resident of the Kramer Homes Cooperative, tells how, in the early 1940s, the federal government contracted architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen to create 500 homes for defense workers. The Kramer Homes' creatively designed housing environment fostered community life to such an extent that the housing cooperative is fully functioning today.

The Girls of Atomic City: Life in a Secret City of the Manhattan Project

Apr. 21 (Thur.) 7pm

Best-selling author Denise Kiernan takes audiences back in time and into a top-secret world where young women and men lived and worked surrounded by spies and secrecy, forbidden to speak of their work, even to each other, as the United States worked to face the challenges of World War II and the Manhattan Project raced to harness nuclear power.

Choices Given, Choices Made: White Working-Class Women in the Postwar Era

Apr. 22 (Fri.) 11am

Mary Patrice Erdmans, Ph.D., professor of sociology at Case Western Reserve University, examines the life stories of five sisters who came of age in Michigan after World War II, and how family, faith and motherhood shaped their life experiences within the larger historical context of postwar America.

Posters and Patriotism

Apr. 23 (Sat.) 10am

Posters were used to help inspire patriotism during World War II. Participants will view the propaganda poster display from the Detroit Historical Society, and then create a poster to take home illustrating their love of country today.

Look! Up in the Sky: A History of Science Fiction during the 1940s

Apr. 23 (Sat.) 1pm

This presentation with Donald Ramlow, professor at Western Michigan University, will cover science fiction material from the 1940s, including highlights of films, authors and magazines of the era, as well as personal anecdotes from people who were involved in science fiction of the 1940s.

The Detroit Tigers During World War II and Subsequent Integration of Baseball

Apr. 27 (Wed.) 11am

After the U.S. entered World War II, most teams were stripped of their best players. Baseball historian William M. Anderson, Ph.D., profiles this unique chapter in baseball history when prime players were scarce and even a one-armed outfielder played regularly for the St. Louis Browns.

A Thousand Letters Home: The Journey of the Letters

Apr. 28 (Thur.) 11am

Teresa K. Irish, author of *A Thousand Letters Home*, takes you on an inspirational, entertaining, educational and life-affirming journey based on the 1,000 letters her father wrote home from World War II. She gives a firsthand account through the eyes, heart and words of one soldier, and mirrors the journeys of many who served in World War II.

Making Jobs Just: The FEPC Reshaping the American Workplace in World War II

Apr. 29 (Fri.) 11am

Elizabeth Faue, Ph.D., chair of the history department at Wayne State University, explores the origins, establishment and impact of the Fair Employment Practice Committee, created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940 and charged with recruiting and employing minority and women workers, who faced considerable opposition in industrial jobs both prior to and during the war.

Victory and Its Echoes: From FDR to Reagan

May 5 (Thur.) 7pm

Frequent History Channel commentator H.W. Brands, Ph.D., historian and Pulitzer Prize finalist, recounts how the American victory in World War II established the United States as the foremost power on the planet. It also made the American economy the wonder of the world. The story of the next 50 years is how those developments influenced American life and American relations with the world.

The Dollmaker: Book Discussion

May 6 (Fri.) 11am

Harriet Simpson Arnow's 1954 bestseller *The Dollmaker* tells the heartbreaking story of the Nevels family as they move from the Kentucky backwoods to the foreign city life of Detroit during World War II. Join us for a book discussion led by Macomb Community College librarian Cassandra Spieles.


Stories of Service


May 7 (Sat.) 1pm

Hear stories from a panel of World War II veterans as they share their experiences of war and homecoming. Brian Louwers, staff writer at C&G Newspapers, and John Lind, director of the Detroit Arsenal of Democracy Museum, will facilitate this interactive discussion.

General Information

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 **Macomb Multicultural International Initiatives (MMII):** Events are intended to increase knowledge, sensitivity and skills in cross-cultural interactions. Events count toward the cultural competency certificate. For more information visit www.macomb.edu/mmii.

 **Real to Reel:** By examining the dramatization of history by the film industry, the Real to Reel program seeks to set the record straight by comparing Hollywood's sensationalized version with the historically accepted interpretation of events.