

MACOMB COUNTY'S PLACE FOR DISCOVERY

THE ALBERT L. LORENZO

Cultural Center

AT MACOMB COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Tall Tales and Folklore: Exploring Michigan's Traditional Stories

March 1–May 6, 2017

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 10am–4pm
Thursday, 10am–8pm



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 Thrill of the Chill: The Importance of Reading and Writing, with Johnathan Rand

Mar. 2 (Thur.) 7pm (Book signing begins at 6pm)

Johnathan Rand is the best-selling author of the popular series *American Chillers* and *Michigan Chillers*. His presentation will highlight his life as a writer of supernatural stories, along with how important reading and writing are for young students.

An Afternoon of Folk Music with Michigan's Troubadour

Mar. 4 (Sat.) 1pm

Join accomplished multi-instrumentalist Neil Woodward, who was officially named Michigan's Troubadour by the Michigan Legislature in 2003 in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the preservation of Great Lakes folk music and culture. His performance pays tribute to lighthouse keepers, immigrants, laborers, sailors, soldiers, lumberjacks, railroaders, farmers, hobos, auto workers and dogs.

Blood on the Mitten: Infamous Michigan Murders, 1700–Present

Mar. 8 (Wed.) 11am

Tom Carr, award-winning journalist and author of the book *Blood on the Mitten*, discusses the most infamous and historically significant murders in Michigan history, taking us to each crime scene and putting each killing in its historical and social perspective.

Folklore of the Mining Boom: Michigan Immigrant Stories

Mar. 9 (Thur.) 11am & 1pm

Set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula during the mining boom of 1850–1880, storyteller Genot Picor as "Miner Sam" spins stories, sings songs and leads interactive creative movement. This performance for all ages is based on the stories and songs brought to the Upper Peninsula by various immigrant populations hoping to make a living in the mining industry.

Pirates, Crooks and Killers: The Dark Side of Sailing the Great Lakes

Mar. 10 (Fri.) 11am

Maritime historian and author Frederick Stonehouse focuses on a little explored but fascinating aspect of Great Lakes maritime history—crimes on the inland seas and in its ports. Stonehouse looks at the purposeful sinking of ships by thieves or shipowners trying to collect insurance money, and crimes perpetrated against crewmen in unfamiliar cities, exposing the dark side of sailing the Great Lakes.

The Haunted Great Lakes

Mar. 11 (Sat.) 1pm

The inland seas are filled with tales of things that go splash in the night, flickering specters of doom, ghost ships, haunted lighthouses, sea serpents and maritime superstitions. Frederick Stonehouse returns to tell these tales, encompassing the period from the early 1700s until the present.

“Celebrating Arabs” and Other Rumors and Urban Legends of Detroit

Mar. 15 (Wed.) 11am

Janet L. Langlois, Ph.D., retired professor of English at Wayne State University, presents a brief overview of rumor and urban legends in general, followed by specific stories shared in and about Detroit, such as “Knock-Knock Street” and “The Belle Isle Bridge Incident.” She will conclude with special emphasis on the “Celebrating Arabs” urban legend, which first surfaced in Detroit in the aftermath of 9/11.

Haunted Travels of Michigan: Accounts of Hauntings and the Unexplained

Mar. 16 (Thur.) 11am

Paranormal researcher and co-author of *Haunted Travels in Michigan* Kathleen R. Tedsen shares stories of the unexplained and paranormal. She includes research on the history of sites in Macomb County and beyond, as well as the results of hundreds of on-site paranormal investigations.

Michigan Legends and Lore: Stories from Shore to Shore

Mar. 17 (Fri.) 11am & 1pm

Storyteller Jenifer Strauss regales children and adults alike with myths, legends, tall tales, historical fiction and personal stories from the Great Lakes State. The performance will include songs, an original poem and a great deal of audience participation.

Native American Art and the American Experience

Mar. 18 (Sat.) 1pm

Professor Michael J. Farrell, Ph.D., of Art House Tours, discusses Native American art: its uses, meanings and mythology as evidenced in art and artifacts from the 18th through the early 20th century. Included will be Great Lakes and Plains Indian cultures and how that art is a reflection of belief.

Stories and Songs of the Michigan Lumber Camp

Mar. 22 (Wed.) 11am & 1pm

Reenactor Michael Deren portrays a lumberjack and shanty boy from Northern Michigan. He plays concertina, fiddle, bones and button accordion, and recreates life in the Michigan lumber camps, sharing songs and stories of work and daily life in the camps, as well as the importance of the lumber industry in the 19th century.

Digging Underground: Removing Myths and

Unveiling Untold Stories of Detroit’s Underground Railroad

Mar. 24 (Fri.) 11am

Detroit’s role in the Underground Railroad has either been hidden or covered in legends. Jamon Jordan of the Black Scroll Network will help uncover the truth about the significant role that men and women in Detroit played in fighting against slavery and helping thousands achieve freedom.

The Werewolves of Detroit

Mar. 25 (Sat.) 1pm

Educator and reenactor Gerald Wykes retells traditional folktales brought to early Detroit by French immigrants to the New World, including the Loup Garou (the werewolf), Le Lutin (the horse-rider) and the terrifying Feu Follet.

Everything Happens for a Reason: The Cold Comfort of Conspiracy Theories

Mar. 29 (Wed.) 11am

Mark R. Huston, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy at Schoolcraft College, argues that while the term “conspiracy theory” is often derogatory, conspiracy theories can be useful tools for thinking about the nature of reasoning, argumentation and explanation. Huston will present academic and popular literature, and look at examples of various conspiracy theories.

Windjammers: Songs of the Great Lakes Sailors

Mar. 30 (Thur.) 7pm

In the days when schooners carried most of the trade and passengers on the Great Lakes, the boats were alive with song. Passage songs, work chanteys and story-songs of sinkings and disasters gave the lakes a vast, unwritten library. Author, journalist and Michigan State University Professor Joe Grimm shares the stories and music collected by Ivan Walton in the last summer there was a commercial sailing vessel on the Great Lakes.

The Gales of November: Disaster on the Great Lakes

Mar. 31 (Fri.) 11am

The inland seas can create weather conditions as fierce and treacherous as any on the ocean. Most feared by freshwater mariners are the cyclonic weather systems that develop in autumn, known as the Gales of November. Joel Stone, senior curator of the Detroit Historical Society, discusses the legendary disasters involving Great Lakes vessels and dispels some myths.

Folklore and Legend in the Ethnic Layers of Detroit (A Digital Storytelling Project)

Mar. 31 (Fri.) 1pm

Julie Koehler, Ph.D., and Krysta Ryzewski, Ph.D., both of Wayne State University, share their ongoing project, Ethnic Layers of Detroit (ELD), an interdisciplinary research project designed to create, document, and share narratives of Detroit's ethnic histories. Learn more about what "digital humanities" means, the historic sites selected for the narratives, and how the team researches and presents the stories.

Sand Dunes, Sawdust and Shipwrecks: Stories from the Sunset Shore

Apr. 1 (Sat.) 1pm

Larry Massie, author, storyteller and the first person to earn a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan, tells true and unusual stories from the shores of Lake Michigan, including tales of warriors, explorers, voyageurs, pioneers, ship captains, lumberjacks, sand dunes and passenger pigeons.

Paul Bunyan: Not a Myth, a Real Lumberjack After All

Apr. 5 (Wed.) 11am

Author and historian D. Laurence Rogers tells how a lumberjack murdered in 1875 in Bay City grew into the legendary Paul Bunyan. Hear how lumberjack Fabian "Saginaw Joe" Fournier became America's greatest folklore figure after news reports of his exploits in the woods were embellished by book authors and poets in the early 1900s. He grew to super-sized fame over the years and is even the subject of a world-renowned opera.

Children's Story Time

Apr. 6 (Thur.) 2pm

Join a staff member from the Clinton-Macomb Public Library to listen to a Michigan story and do a craft. This activity is suitable for children ages 5–10.

Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf: Tales from France and Franco-Michigan

Apr. 7 (Fri.) 11am

Anne E. Duggan, Ph.D., professor of French and chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Wayne State University, looks at the ways in which "Little Red Riding Hood" is adapted in Franco-Michigan folklore. Scholars have analyzed Charles Perrault's version in terms of male seduction of naive women, and the adaptations by French settlers of Detroit focus on the very mature material implicit in Perrault's tale.

The Ghost of Michigan's Past: Stories, Songs and Dances from the Great Lakes

Apr. 8 (Sat.) 1pm

Genot "Winter Elk" Picor takes his audience on a storied journey through Michigan's past. This family program includes interactive stories, sing-alongs and Native American hand talking, as well as stories from the first European visitors to Michigan and the Great Lakes.

Guided Tour of Tall Tales and Folklore: Exploring Michigan's Traditional Stories

Apr. 13 (Thur.) 10am, 12pm, & 2pm

Experience a guided tour of the exhibit led by a staff member. Preregistration is **required** for tours. Groups are limited to 20 people.

I Heard You Paint Houses: The Hoffa Mystery Solved

Apr. 20 (Thur.) 7pm

Lawyer and author Charles Brandt discusses his relationship with Teamster official and Mafia associate Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran, including Sheeran's confession to the killing of former Teamster President Jimmy Hoffa. Brandt spoke to Sheeran for five years, until his death in 2003, and later published Sheeran's biography documenting his confession in Hoffa's murder. He details the corroborating facts he's found to support Sheeran's story and gives his take on why the confession has not resulted in the FBI closing the case.

More Than a Story: The Oral Traditions of Michigan's Anishnaabek

Apr. 21 (Fri.) 11am

Eric Hemenway, director of the Department of Repatriation, Archives & Records for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, discusses the Odawa view of oral history, including the complexity and depth of indigenous oral traditions and how Native American communities have been able to retain their histories.

Storytelling—Not Just for Kids!

Apr. 22 (Sat.) 1pm

Master storyteller Ivory D. Williams displays his trademark brand of wit, wisdom and humor in a highly interactive, entertaining and educational storytelling performance. He will demonstrate the power, effectiveness and importance of story in our lives.

Book Discussion: Michigan Legends: Folktales and Lore from the Great Lakes State

Apr. 27 (Thur.) 11am

Join Connie Firestine of the Clinton-Macomb Public Library for a discussion of this 2013 book by Sheryl James. The stories within are a vivid sample of the state's cultural heritage.

The Search for Le Griffon

Apr. 28 (Fri.) 11am

The first vessel to visit the upper Great Lakes vanished on its return trip to Montreal, and people have searched for Le Griffon for the subsequent three centuries. Ric Mixer, shipwreck historian, chronicles explorer Robert de LaSalle, captain of Le Griffon, and shares unique insight into the loss and the expeditions to find the French fur trading ship.

The Edmund Fitzgerald Investigations

Apr. 28 (Fri.) 1pm

Ric Mixer returns to discuss the largest shipwreck in the Great Lakes, that of the Edmund Fitzgerald. The Fitz became famous for its song, but Mixer shows that it is much more than that. He dove the wreck in 1994 and has uncovered rare footage of the ship's construction, and talked with others who have explored its deep secrets. From the Coast Guard investigation to the final bell raising, Mixer recounts what has been learned from the shipwreck over the years.

The Sun-Catcher: An Ojibwa Solar Myth



Apr. 29 (Sat.) 1pm

Macomb Community College Professor of Mythology James Farrow presents the text of this short story from native inhabitants of Northern Michigan, preserved in written English by Henry Schoolcraft. He examines the myth itself, the cultural assumptions it requires of its audience, and a translation mistake made by Schoolcraft.

Astonishing Michigan

May 4 (Thur.) 7pm

Forrest Burgess and Scott Philbrook, the creative co-hosts of the podcast *Astonishing Legends*, will be here in person to share a live version of their show, focusing on tales and stories of Michigan.

Lomax Goes North: The Folk Songs and Stories of Michigan

May 5 (Fri.) 11am

Fiddler, folklorist and educator A. Trae McMaken gives a multidimensional presentation about Michigan's folk traditions, such as those collected by pioneering folklorist Alan Lomax in the 1930s. This program includes live fiddle tunes, songs and stories.

Additional Information:

All exhibits, lectures and films are **free**. Preregistration is requested for all presentations. Please call 586.445.7348 or email CulturalCenter@macomb.edu to register.

The Lorenzo Cultural Center welcomes field trips and group tours, and provides complimentary resources for teachers. The Center is accessible to persons with disabilities. Call 586.445.7348 to plan your visit.

Speakers and programs are subject to change. Events are free and held in the Lorenzo Cultural Center (44575 Garfield, Clinton Twp. MI 48038) unless otherwise noted. Event 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.

 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, a nonacademic certificate awarded by Macomb Community College and MMII. For more information visit www.macomb.edu/mmii.