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## Lectures in American History

6:30 p.m.

**Tues, Feb 27 ~ "The Benign Influence of Good Laws Under a Free Government": The Presidency of George Washington, 1789-1797** Dr. Dvorak will present an overview of the crucial two terms of our first president as he worked to guide the infant United States through foreign policy dangers, domestic divisions and financial weakness, and the almost constant trial and error of implementing a new constitution for a new nation. Washington's presidency set a large number of precedents that would establish practices that would guide the United States even today.

**Tues, Mar 6 ~ "We'll Always Have Casablanca" A WWII Movie That Amounted to More Than a Hill of Beans** Immediately upon its release in December of 1942, *Casablanca* left an indelible mark on war-time American movie-going audiences who were crowding theaters to watch this timeless story of love, loss and sacrifice. From the beginning, the filming of *Casablanca* was marked by unusual, surprising and atypical circumstances. And yet, the filmmakers efforts resulted in what has been widely considered to be one of the best Hollywood pictures of all time. Mr. Wenzel's presentation will explain why even seventy-five years later, *Casablanca* remains a popular and revered film and stands as a preeminent example of a movie's ability to evoke a wide range of emotions.

**Mon, Mar 12 ~ "In the Shadow of Vietnam: The United States Military in the 1970's"** After the war in Vietnam was over, the United States military faced a series of challenges throughout the 1970's. In this presentation, Dr. Quirk will address how these challenges were dealt with in the post-Vietnam era.

**Tues, Mar 20 ~ "Slave Revolts in the Early Republic"** Resistance to slavery in what would become the United States took many forms and occurred throughout the institution's 400 year history. Mike Banghart's talk will explore the events leading up to and following a conspiracy to begin a slave rebellion in 1800. An enslaved man named Gabriel attempted to start a revolution in Virginia that was foiled before it even began, but gives insights into various tensions in the early republic.

**Thurs, Mar 29 ~ "From Manzanar to the Midwest"** The Internment of Americans of Japanese descent after the attack on Pearl Harbor is among the darker chapters of American history. Few people at the time raised their voices against wholesale evacuation and internment. Some organizations, including faith-based, political, and public service groups and individuals, however, worked in tandem with the War Relocation Authority (WRA) for the release of 25,000 of the 120,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps on the West Coast to go to new lives and jobs in the Midwest. Former Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson's talk is based on the recollections of one of those individuals and his well-intentioned but problematic work as a civilian administrator in the WRA.

**Mon, Apr 2 ~ "100 Year on: World War I in Memory and History"** The United States entered World War I in April of 1917. The first American troops arrived in Europe in June. World War I represented a significant event to Americans living at the time – but future events, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and World War II, have all but erased the memory of "The Great War" in the consciousness of Americans. Dr. Finch's presentation will focus on the impact that the war had and the way that the United States incorporated the experience of the war into our history.

*These events are free and open to the public. Cookies and coffee are courtesy of the Freeport Public Library Foundation.*