

# LECTURES IN AMERICAN HISTORY

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2019

All programs begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Cookies and Coffee courtesy of Freeport Public Library  
Foundation**

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### **Thursday January 3: Mike Banghart**

#### **Title: Crisis in Coal Country: The Coal War and Ludlow Massacre of 1914**

Mike Banghart will discuss the causes and results of the Ludlow Massacre which took place in Colorado in 1914. This is considered one of the deadliest events in the history of the American Labor Movement, and contributed to significant changes and reforms to American labor law.

### **Thursday Jan 10: James Winker**

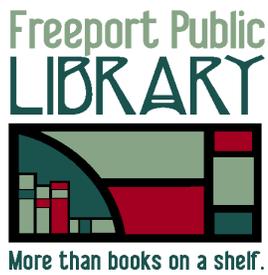
#### **Title: We Can Do Better: Dorothea Dix and the Age of Reform**

In the two decades before the Civil War, women in the United States became active in encouraging the country to make a series of reforms to improve the lives of those most in need and most abused during those years of the 19th century. In this presentation, Jim Winker will discuss the era in general through the life and work of Dorothea Dix. Special emphasis will be placed in her work in Illinois.

### **Wednesday January 16: Eric Welch**

#### **Title: John Bingham, The 14th Amendment, and the Third United States Constitution.**

John Bingham of Ohio is an unsung hero of American History. Eric Welch will focus on contributions to the creation of the 14th amendment, the events and Court decisions leading up to the ratification of the amendment, how the amendment affected the Constitution, and how the amendment has been applied and interpreted since.



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### **Tuesday January 22: Dr. Andy Dvorak**

#### **Title: Why We Have the 25th Amendment: How It was Intended, How It's Been Used**

Dr. Andy Dvorak of Highland Community College will discuss how President Kennedy's assassination was a major catalyst for inspiring the ratification of the 25th Amendment in 1967. This led to the related concerns of presidential health and allowing vacancies in the vice-presidency during the dangers of the Cold War. Ironically, the only significant use of the Amendment has been in response to Watergate in 1973-74.

### **Monday January 28: Dr. Martin Quirk**

#### **Title: A History of the Great Plains**

Dr. Martin Quirk of Rock Valley College will discuss the history of the Great Plains from the pre-Columbian period and Native American Society up to the present day.

### **Thursday February 7: Alan Wenzel**

#### **Title: Fins to the Left, Fins to the Right: Virgil Exner and the Golden Age of American Automobile Design**

In the decade following World War II, American automakers raced to meet the public's demand for new cars. By 1950, it was clear that the consumer's appetite was for cars that sported a fresh, new look. General Motors, Ford and Chrysler responded with automobiles that were stylish, bold and exciting in appearance. As car design took over from engineering as the driving force behind sales, the talented, creative and visionary designers for the "Big Three" exerted tremendous influence within the industry. Among the most influential was Virgil Exner.

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**Tuesday February 12: Dr. Edward Finch**

**Title: "Triton: America's Deep Secret"**

Dr. Edward Finch will relate the story of the formerly classified submerged circumnavigation of the globe made in 1960 at the height of the Cold War. The United States was seeking a technological feat to rival the Soviet's Sputnik triumph. Triton's mission was so secret that most of her crew did not even know where the submarine was headed or how long they would be gone.