

AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES 2021

All lectures will be presented via zoom and begin at 6:30 pm.

Thursday January 28: Dr. Shawn Shianna and Lori Johnson

Title: Women Airforce Service Pilots of WWII

The 2021 Lectures in American History series will begin with a great friend of the series, Dr. Shawn Shianna, presenting alongside Lori Johnson. Together they will provide insights into the lives and contributions of women pilots during World War II. They have both studied this topic and have even worked together on a screenplay.

Monday February 8: Mike Banghart

Title: The Players League: Baseball and Labor in the Gilded Age

Baseball has played an important social role in American History and American life. Mike Banghart teaches history at World History, AP European History, and African American History at Freeport High School. Mike is also a fan of contemporary baseball, and a student of the game's history. This presentation will explore the unique year of 1890 with the formation of a third major league. The new Players' League was short lived, but its failure still influences professional sports in America to this day.

Tuesday February 16: Bill Petersen

Title: Jazz: America's Art Form

Bill Petersen is the chairman of the music department for Freeport School District #145 and also serves as Director of the Highland College Big Band. Mr. Petersen will examine the origins of jazz music and explore why and how jazz could have only originated in the United States. He will also focus on the history of jazz music and how the traditions and stylings of the people who made the music mirrored the struggles of American life during the 20th century.

Wednesday February 24: Eric Welch

Title: The Supreme Court: How it works and how to talk about it

The Supreme Court has long played a significant and high profile role in American History, but due to the nature of the court, it does the vast majority of its work quietly, and out of the view of cameras and the press. Eric Welch has long been a student of the Supreme Court, its history, its traditions, and the personalities that have shaped the court and their most important decisions. His presentation will discuss a bit of the court's history, how it works, and especially the current court.

Wednesday March 3: Dr. Ed Finch

Title: The Hollywood Blacklist

A discussion of the events in and around the hunt for Communists in the American film industry in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Dr. Ed Finch will focus his presentation on the "Hollywood Ten," the tactics used by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), and the response of the Hollywood studios.