

**Dolores Hydock Road Scholars Programs**  
available to qualifying organizations through the Alabama Humanities Alliance

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*Note: These programs are provided through the Alabama Humanities Alliance. Sponsoring groups contribute \$50 to the AHA towards the expense of their first program in a calendar year; additional programs in that same year cost the sponsoring organization \$75 apiece. AHF programs must be free and open to the public. To schedule one of these listed programs, call me at **205-951-7757**. For more information about the Road Scholars program, visit [alabamahumanities.org/program/road-scholars-speakers-bureau/](http://alabamahumanities.org/program/road-scholars-speakers-bureau/)*

**Every Picture Tells a Story: The Storytelling of Norman Rockwell**

Norman Rockwell didn't just paint pictures; each of his paintings told a story. This program shares a behind-the-scenes look at how Rockwell created his one-image stories in some of his best-loved covers for *The Saturday Evening Post*.

This program describes Rockwell's early career, his first surprising encounter with the editors of *The Saturday Evening Post*, and the techniques he used in his long and successful career as an illustrator and artist. Slide images of his sketches, models, paintings-in-process, and finished work provide insight into the step-by-step process Rockwell used in becoming "America's painter" – and storyteller on canvas.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images. 50 minutes in length.*

**Soldiers in Greasepaint: USO Camp Show Performers of World War II**

From Utah Beach to the Philippines, from wrestlers and tap dancers to the biggest names in show business, from 16,000 servicemen in an amphitheatre in southern France to 20 GIs in Jeeps in a lonely stateside outpost, USO Camp Shows during WWII were part of a diverse, hilarious, moving, and inspiring story of voluntarism and service. Storyteller Dolores Hydock shares a small slice of this big-hearted story from a remarkable time in U.S. history.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images **with sound**. 60 minutes in length.*

**Starch in Their Petticoats: True Stories of Strong Women Who Settled the West**

This program tells the true stories of women of guts and gusto who were part of the Western Expansion in the 1800s: a wagon train pioneer, a homesteader, mail order brides, a professional gambler, and an actress of the 1850s. Their stories are explored through diary excerpts, newspaper clippings, historical accounts of their lives, and photographs of the women and artifacts of the time. The stories of these intrepid pioneers provide a look at some of the tough, resourceful, ambitious, and determined women whose spirit and sense of adventure helped put the shine in the golden American West.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images. 60 minutes in length.*

## Dolores Hydock Road Scholars Programs

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### **It's the Little Things:**

#### **Five small objects that connect our world with the Dutch Golden Age**

You could hold them all in the palm of your hand: five little things from 400 years ago that helped shape the world we live in today. Think we invented wearable technology and the selfie in the 21st century? Think again! Those things -- and many other things we think we invented -- were part of life hundreds of years ago. Photographs, maps, paintings, and historical records help take the audience on a journey from the Arctic Sea to Singapore through the story of five tiny things that changed history in a big way.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images. 60 minutes in length.*

### **Going the Extra Mile: The Extraordinary Life Journeys of Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland**

Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland made headlines as they raced, solo, in opposite directions around the world in 1889. That adventure turned out to be only a small part of a larger fight they each fought in their own way -- a fight for financial independence for women at the turn of the 20th century. Though they never met in person, their stories overlap in a fascinating series of coincidences that had them racing against time, injustice, and each other. This is the little-known backstory of their life journeys before and after that famous trip.

*50 minutes in length. This program can be done with or without PowerPoint slides.*

### **Fools for Love: Fads and Fancies of Regency England**

This program brings to life the world of the late 1700s / early 1800s -- the Regency Period in England -- a time of strange fads, sketchy medicine, and hair-raising shenanigans among the fashionable set, led by George, Prince of Wales and the future King George IV of England, who was the center of fashionable and cultural life during that time. Letters, diary excerpts, photographs, and paintings are used to explore the customs, habits, and tokens of love and remembrance that were part of this stylish and passionate time in English and American history.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images. 50 minutes in length.*

### **Putting Down New Roots: Through Ellis Island to a New Life**

This presentation puts a human face to the experience of early 20th-century European immigration to America, and Depression-era family life, through the detailed story of one Polish-American family. The presentation discusses the Ellis Island experience for many immigrants who passed through that entryway in the early 1900s. Details about the Ellis Island facility in the early 1900s and as it is today, as well as stories about language difficulties, luggage, foreign aid societies, medical examinations and other individual experiences, translate immigration data and raw numbers into a moving, human-scale story. The presentation then follows one immigrant family as it settles into a new life in a small, industrial city in Pennsylvania during the 1920s and 1930s. Stories of the small neighborhood grocery store they ran during the Depression, their family life, the children's games and toys, and other aspects of daily life create a personal portrait of what it was like to "put down new roots" in unfamiliar soil.

*35 - 50 minutes in length. No special AV support needed.*

### **Footprint on the Sky: Voices from Chandler Mountain**

The spirit and voices of Alabama's Chandler Mountain community come to life in this funny and tender story of strong women and Southern hospitality. Bonnets, bow-tie quilts, tomato stakes, the recipe for Scripture Cake, an old-timey cure for hiccups and other folk remedies, superstitions, and family stories are all part of this affectionate portrait of a close-knit mountain community in the 1970s, where modern-day life mixed with old-fashioned ways. The spirit and voices of special mountain friends come to life in this story of strong women, Southern hospitality, and the generous spirit of a close-knit community.

*This program requires a table for the display of a quilt and bonnets that are discussed in the program. 35 minutes in length.*

### **Through the Back Door: The Music That Bridged the Bayou**

This program describes the history of Cajun music in America over the past 150 years. It also paints a portrait of Cajun and Creole music and musicians, and the role that music played in allowing non-Cajuns to slip "through the back door" into the world of the spirited people of Southwest Louisiana. This presentation includes stories and anecdotes collected from more than 50 Cajun and Creole musicians as they talked about the importance of music in their own lives and the lives of their families. The presentation also includes a discussion of zydeco and how it developed in Southwest Louisiana. Throughout the presentation, there are samples of the music itself, both in its early style and its modern-day sound, and videos of festivals, dancing, and local interviews.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images **with sound**. Also needed is a table for the display of a Cajun Mardi Gras costume and musical instruments. 45 minutes in length.*

**Shelf Life: A ramble through the Dewey Decimal System**

A story journey through the library stacks, accompanied by Melvil Dewey and Andrew Carnegie, two brilliant, ambitious men whose vision -- and names -- are forever connected with the modern public library. Their surprising stories include the contributions they made, the compulsions that drove their decisions, and the kudos and criticisms they received along the way. We'll pull a few stories off the library shelf, too!

*45 minutes in length. No special AV support needed.*

**Oh, Henry! The surprising life and stories of William Sydney Porter**

"O. Henry" is one of the most famous pseudonyms in American literature. It belonged to William Sydney Porter, who is often called "the master of the American short story." His stories are famous for their surprise endings and ability to show that people and circumstances are rarely exactly what they seem to be.

There were some surprises in William Sydney Porter's own life, too. In this program, Porter's personal story is interwoven with updated tellings of some O. Henry stories that serve as a reminder of why he was one of the most popular writers of his era, and why his stories continue to entertain, inspire, and surprise.

*50 to 60 minutes in length. This program requires no special AV setup.*

**Soldiers in Hoop Skirts: Nurses, Spies, and Other Fighting Women of the Civil War**

Women on both sides of the conflict did their part for the war effort – as spies, soldiers, nurses, and supporters from the home front. This program shares the true, sometimes funny, sometimes touching, stories of some of the sisters, wives, mothers, and daughters who snooped, smuggled, sewed, nursed, and risked their lives, health, and fortunes for a cause they loved. The program includes photographs, letters, journal entries, and excerpts from memoirs written by these women after the war.

*This program requires a screen (or blank, light-colored wall) and projector that allows the hookup of a PC laptop to show PowerPoint images. 50 minutes in length.*