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Zoom Back to History with an Online History Speaker Series from the Willamette Heritage Center

SALEM, OR – The Willamette Heritage Center is launching its new monthly online speaker series “Zooming Back to History” starting September 29 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. This public online gathering seeks to share historical perspectives of topics related to the Mid-Willamette Valley and beyond. Each speaker will talk about their topic for approximately 30 minutes, followed by a live Q&A session.

“Zooming Back to History: An Online Speaker Series”

$10/speaker or $30/series
Tuesdays • Sept. 29, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, & Dec. 15, 2020 • 7 p.m.
Learn more about the series and submit payment at: www.willametteheritage.org/zooming-back-to-history/

“Zooming Back to History” Speakers:

September 29: Ed Austin, Train Expert
“Rollin' Through Salem: The Railroad Turns 150”
An overview of how the Southern Pacific Railroad came to Salem and how it and Salem have evolved over the 150 years it’s been here. Come hear how the introduction of the Railroad to Salem shaped the development of the city.

October 20: Leslie Dunlap, Willamette University
"Women Reforming Men Behaving Badly"
My research on temperance women reframes the question by focusing on race and women’s activism. I find that instead of either “progressive” or “conservative,” the movement was a meeting ground, where African American, Native American, and white participants debated the purpose and direction of women’s political participation.

November 17: Jennifer Jopp, Willamette University
“A New Look at Jason Lee”
This lecture re-examines the life of Lee and seeks, by placing Lee into this broader colonial context, to understand how we have come to see Lee- who largely failed at his ventures and was recalled in disgrace- as we do. It seeks, too, to understand what aspects of our history we elide when we focus on the life of one white man.

December 15: Bob Reinhardt, Boise State University
“Smallpox Eradication: Inspiration, Warnings, and Lessons for COVID-19”
This topic is based on The End of a Global Pox: America and the Eradication of Smallpox in the Cold War Era (University of North Carolina Press, 2015) written by the speaker.

The Willamette Heritage Center, unification between Mission Mill Museum (1964) and Marion County Historical Society (1950), is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an American Treasure by the National Park Service. As a private non-profit association, for more than sixty years WHC has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon’s history. The museum’s histories are shared with visitors through daily group tours, speakers, living history, children’s programs, hands-on activities, special events, publications, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit www.willametteheritage.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501c(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

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