

Saturday Concert, Saturday, April 25, 2020, Special time: 12 Noon, (doors open at 11:45 a.m.), "Duke Ellington Birthday Bash!" Performed by The Bloom/Funkhouser

Jazz Duo.

The stellar jazz duo of Peter H. Bloom, flute, and John Funkhouser, piano, will return to the Ventress Library Concert Series with an exuberant Duke Ellington Birthday Bash! Come help us celebrate the 121st birthday of the great Duke Ellington (born on April 29,

1899) with classics like "Take the A Train", "Don't Get Around Much Anymore", "Caravan", "In a Sentimental Mood", and other Ellingtonia including "Cottontail", "I'm Beginning to See the Light", and the lush ballad "Chelsea Bridge" by Ellington's longtime composing partner Billy Strayhorn. Peter and John have performed together for more than 20 years. Both are veterans of the legendary Aardvark Jazz Orchestra (47th season), and each has impressive credentials performing nationally and internationally. They play with style and verve. Concert is free and open to the public; no tickets required. Light brunch-themed refreshments and mocktails served! Visit www.americasmusicworks.com

Wednesday Night Lecture – Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 6:30-7:45 p.m. "Early Commerce in the Historic North River Valley" Presented by Paul F. McCarthy

Local historian and maritime enthusiast Paul F. McCarthy returns to the Ventress Library to present a lecture and slideshow entitled "Early Commerce in the Historic North River Valley - Water Powered Iron Works and Mills, Packet Sloops, and Salt Marsh Haying." This will be a pictorial lecture about significant sites and artifacts along the North River and its tributaries. Paul F. McCarthy has lived on the banks of the North River for the past 49 years. He is a maritime archaeologist and historian whose lectures have been enjoyed by many throughout the South Shore. Don't miss this journey back in time to learn the history of your area through an entertaining and informative slide show presentation. Free and open to the public; no tickets required.

Saturday Concert – Season Finale - Saturday, May 23, 2020, 2:00 p.m., "Love is Here to Stay" Performed by vocalist Will McMillan and pianist Joe Reid

We welcome back Will and Joe to perform the songs of Gershwin! This show is a delight and includes such popular standards as "They Can't Take That Away From Me", "Someone To Watch Over Me", "I Got Rhythm", "Fascinating Rhythm", "But Not For Me", "Love Is Sweeping The Country", "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off", and many more favorites. "Few singers captivate an audience as quickly and convincingly as McMillan can. He presents his repertoire with a beguilingly intimate approach all his own." — New England Entertainment Digest. Free and open to the public; no tickets required. Light refreshments served! Visit www.willsings.com

VML Cultural Series Winter / Spring - 2020

Welcome to the Ventress Memorial Library Cultural Series

Awaiting you inside is a schedule of programming events for the Winter/Spring Season.

We hope you will sample the many cultural offerings we present to you here.

Our programs are always free of charge.

Come to your library to take part in all the cultural events. We look forward to seeing you often!

Enjoy!

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Saturday Concert Broadcast Event – Saturday, January 25, 2020, 2:00 p.m. “The Sound of Velvet: Tony Bennett in Concert!” Get a head start on celebrating Valentine’s Day. Sing along with Tony on the big screen through the magic of Qello concerts. Roses, chocolates, memories... Refreshments served!

Remember last year’s fabulous “Sing Sinatra!”? Well let’s do it again with another musical legend! Come listen to “The Sound of Velvet” featuring legendary crooner Tony Bennett in concert. Includes all your favorite songs such as “I Left My Heart in San Francisco”, “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore”, “Sophisticated Lady”, “My Funny Valentine”, and “Just in Time”. Singing, and dancing in the aisles, is encouraged! Free and open to the public; no tickets required. For more information on the performer visit: www.tonybennett.com

Monday Night Lecture – Monday, February 10, 2020, 6:30-7:45 p.m., (Snow date is February 24), “Using MACRIS Database to Research Historic Home Histories.”

Presented by Bob Jackman

South Shore history researcher Bob Jackman will give a presentation on various ways of using MACRIS database to research the histories of antique homes in Massachusetts. For many decades the Massachusetts Historical Society has received and filed the architectural and social history about select houses in every town across the state. For over two decades, that information has been easily accessed online at the MACRIS website. (MACRIS is an acronym for Massachusetts Cultural Resources Information System) Jackman will also give an overview of the process of filing information about unlisted homes to have that posted online within two years. Free and open to the public; no tickets required. For more information on this historic resource visit: mhc-macris.net

Saturday Concert – Saturday, February 15, 2020, 2:00 p.m. (Snow date is February 22), “Appalachian Melodies and Dance.” Performed by Atwater-Donnelly

Award-winning, internationally acclaimed duo, Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly present delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs and percussive dance. Elwood and Aubrey blend gorgeous harmonies and play an astonishing array of instruments including guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, limberjacks, and other surprises including a thrilling interpretation of freestyle Appalachian clog dancing. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood explain song origins to give more relevance to the material. Married since 1989, Aubrey and Elwood perform widely in the United States and abroad, and their thirteen recordings receive international airplay. Free and open to the public; no tickets required. Refreshments served! Visit www.atwaterdonnelly.com

Wednesday Night Lecture and Film, March 4, 2020, 6:30-7:45 p.m., (snow date is March 18)

**“The Real St. Patrick” with historian Bill Dunn
“Who are the Celts?” – film featuring Jennifer Paxton, PhD**

Join local historian and lecturer Bill Dunn as he explores the truth and myth surrounding the legendary St. Patrick. Did he banish all the snakes from Ireland? Did he bring Christianity to the Emerald Isle? Why is the color green associated with his holiday? Was St. Patrick even Irish? Come have your perceptions challenged by one who has made a practice of de-bunking popular beliefs. Come hear the lecture and learn the facts about this patron saint of the Irish Riviera! And then...stay for the 33 minute film, “Who Are The Celts?” Professor Jennifer Paxton from The Catholic University of America begins this lively history course from “The Great Courses” by examining the common preconceptions about Celtic identity—before smashing them to bits. The first lecture paints the initial brushstrokes on the gargantuan canvas of this European culture most widely perceived as Scottish and Irish, while promising much more. Stream the full course online for free, using your Marshfield library card as your key, through the RBDigital website accessed through www.ventresslibrary.org. Questions? Ask a librarian! Free and open to the public; no tickets required.

Saturday Concert – Saturday, March 21, 2020, 2:00 p.m. (Snow date is March 28)

“Native Irish Music Returns: Eamonn Sheehan and Friends!”

Bring the family to this foot stompin’ Ventress Library tradition featuring authentic music from the Emerald Isle. With Eamonn on guitar/vocals and Aiden on fiddle/vocals, a good time is assured for all. Catch the spirit on the Irish Riviera! Free and open to the public; no tickets required. Bring the family! Light refreshments served. Erin Go Bragh!

Wednesday Night Lecture – Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 6:30-7:45 p.m., “The History of Ellis Island: 1630 to 2012”, Presented by professional genealogist Seema Kenney

We welcome back Seema Kenney to the Ventress Library to explore the fascinating history of Ellis Island, a portal for immigrants to America for over three centuries. Who was processed at Ellis Island, and what did that involve? How did the Legislation of Immigration affect Ellis Island? Come hear this published author, historian and certified legacy planner bring to life the drama of immigration to the United States as family stories unfold in both unique and common ways. Audience members are welcome to bring a vintage family photo to display on the event table. So many stories, so much history! Free and open to the public; no tickets required. Visit seema-able.com