

RSVP Speakers Bureau - Topics with Description (Alphabetical)

A Woman Spy During the Civil War

Speaker – Jeanne Nixon

- Illustrated accounts of a woman spy's activities during the Civil War.
- Suitable for younger school age groups and adults alike.

Please note – this speaker may require transportation to and from presentation location.

Affordable Housing

Speaker – Paull E. Spring

- Affordable housing coalition
- Housing needs in Centre County
- What is being done to address need
- What you can do

African Safari

Speaker - Dick Snyder

- Typical Safari
- Wildlife
- Scenery
- Accommodations

Amish - The Plain Life

Speaker - Evonne "Vonnie" Henninger

- How do they live?
- What do they believe?
- Health problems
- Centre County settlements

Army Air Corps World War II

Speaker – Richard D. Ulrich

- Service in the Air Corps from enlistment to discharge.

Baker's Dozen

Speaker - Millie Baker Ragosta

- Life in a mega family
- Wrote for a weekly, national family human interest column for 8 years.

Basic Genealogy

Speaker – Evonne “Vonnie” Henninger

- How to start finding your family
- Tips to make it easy
- Searching the computer Internet
- Interesting stories and finds

Be Your Own “Health Care Case Manager”

Speaker – Molly Schwartz

- Practical ideas for helping you navigate our current health system.
- Prescription lists
- Pre- appointment – know your insurance

Centrepeace and the Criminal Justice System

Speaker - Thomas L. Brewster

- History and vision of Centrepeace
- Overcrowding of prisons
- Cost to taxpayers
- Alternatives to incarceration

C-NET – Centre County’s Government and Education Access Network

Speaker – Cynthia Hahn, Executive Director, C-NET

- A brief review of the history of C-NET.
- Discussion of current programming including new initiatives such as Annenberg Educational Programming, the University Channel Lecture Series and White House Chronicles.
- Profile of some directions for the future of C-NET including the possibility of public access coming to Centre County.

Centre County Chapter of PA Senior Environmental Corps

Speaker – Steve Lupis

- Describe purpose, goals and history of PASEC
- Explain how PASEC members monitor local streams for chemicals and macro-invertebrates
- Show where PASEC teams are active in Centre County

Centre County Community Foundation

Speaker – Bob Potter

- An introduction to community foundations
- A history of the Centre County Community Foundation
- How to use the Centre County Community Foundation
- What the Centre County Community Foundation means to the future of Centre County

Civil War – Women “Soldier” Spies

Speaker – Jeanne Nixon

- Learn about union and confederate women who disguised themselves as soldiers who fought in the War while serving as spies.

Please note – this speaker may require transportation to and from presentation location.

Culture of People and Autos

Speaker – Ed Adams

- Auto Accident Causes
- Insurance Coverage Examples
- Pertinent Rating Factors
- Unique Claims Examples
- Significance of Accidents

Early Lumbering and Iron Making

Speaker – Everett Bird

- Give insights into true stories handed down to me from my parents, grandparents and great grandparents who worked in logging, mills, mining iron ore and working charcoal hearths.

E-Bay 101

Speaker – Ann Marie Rehmert

- Basic skills to help people sell items online.
- Will share her 9 years of experience selling on EBay.
- Basic fundamentals of setting up an account and technique for earning extra income from items you have at home.
- Demonstrate DVD entitled “Selling Basics” with Jim Griffith to learn successful tips to selling on EBay (EBay University)

Formation of the Bald Eagle School System

Speaker – Richard D. Ulrich

- From my perspective as a board member and president conducting meetings with 55 board members.

Gift of Life

Speaker – Vicki Garvin

- Kidney transplant recipient – my views regarding illness and the procedure.
- Will have a living donor to speak about the process and feelings.
- Short Video and information available for interested individuals.
- An informal question and answer session.

Hangings In Centre County

Speaker – James Bryant

- History of Courthouse hangings in Centre County.
- Centre County led central PA in hangings, several African Americans included. The last one, a double hanging for killing the warden.

Health, Wellness & the “2 Hour Lunch”

Speaker – Molly Schwartz

- Relationships have BIG impact on your health – Friendships and sharing in a safe and mutually giving relationship are key elements of a healthy lifestyle.
- Good relationships relax you “inside and out”
- Gives you permission to enjoy your relationships and give validation for feeling better after you’ve spent time with friends.

History of Penns Valley

Speaker - Evonne "Vonnie" Henninger

- Church and school history
- Changes in the area
- Settlement of area
- PowerPoint - History in Pictures

Homeland Security- Local Information

Speaker – Julia Hix, Lorretta Jeffreys, Geraldine Russell & Tom Grey, PA Senior Environmental Corps Members

- What is terrorism?
- Who are the terrorists?
- Planning for emergencies
- Neighborhood Watch
- What to look for
- Where to report

How a Californian Became a Pennsylvanian -- A Fun Story!

Speaker – Rosma Jane Cawi

- Me? Move 3,000 miles where I don't know anyone?
- Why did I choose my location – everything amusing and different?
- Finding a home without being here, changing banks, choosing companies.
- Moving in – first time to see the house.

Please note – this speaker may require transportation to and from presentation location.

How to Land an Airplane

Speaker - Ellen Hetland Fenwick

- An interactive presentation - 30 minutes
- Suitable for grade school and older
- An example of modern technology

Investments For Average Consumers

Speaker – Roger Coplan

- Savings accounts
- Stocks and bonds
- 401k's, pensions / profit sharing

Katrina Mission Trips

Speaker – Barbara Sommers

- Problems these people still face
- Work you may be called upon to do
- Feelings you get from the people you help

Living Through the Great Depression of 1929

Speaker – Richard D. Ulrich

- Employment as a teenager to help with family finances to keep food on the table.

Meals on Wheels

Speaker - Lam Hood

- The State College MOW serves approximately 40,000 meals annually to homebound clients in the State College Area School District.
- To be eligible a client must meet one of the following four criteria: convalescing, frail and elderly, chronically ill, or emotionally ill.
- There are no age restrictions on clients, who make a donation for the meals according to their ability to pay. More than 75 percent of local clients have incomes of less than \$10,000 annually. the local MOW receives no federal, state or local government subsidies, and exists solely on fund-raising efforts, contributions, food donations and fees charged for meals.
- Clients are referred for services by doctors, health care professionals, social service agencies, friends, relatives or ministers.
- Learn more about how you and/or your organization can be involved as a volunteer in a variety of ways.

Mediation For All

Speaker – J. Thomas Kidd

- Mediation has grown rapidly since 1983
- For certification – at least 14 states require mediation for divorce or separation.

Medicare Prescription Drug Program

Speaker - Lam Hood

- A new Medicare prescription drug program available starting in 2006.
- Learn about the program and its many options, and how you can get assistance in making personal decisions about enrollment in the program.

My Background Being Raised in the Early Part of the 20th Century

Speaker – Everett Bird

- Will cover the old, one-room schools, 1st through 8th grade and teachers who taught as high as 50 pupils at a time.

My Career with the Pennsylvania Department of Justice

Speaker - Everett Bird

- In the field of corrections and rehabilitations, working with inmates in vocation and rehab.

Nursing as a Life Long Profession

Speaker – Molly Schwartz

- Basic foundation of nursing education
- Stepping stone to many different areas of work
- Different educational programs

Out of the Darkness

Speaker – Susan Kennedy

- Depression and suicide prevention/Awareness
- Centre County Out of the Darkness Walk
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Researching History and Genealogy

Speaker – Everett Bird

- Local early settlement in Centre County and pioneer development of the area.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Centre County

Speaker – Brian Querry, Brenda Reeve or Shelley R. Miller (RSVP Staff)

- Learn about RSVP and its programs
- Find out about volunteer opportunities in Centre County
- Hear about how you can become an RSVP volunteer

Schools, Students and Parents

Speaker - Rosma Jane Cawi

- Changes in education – no child left behind.
- Free tutoring (volunteer) when needed.
- Passing from one year to the next – parenting
- Vo-Tech

Please note – this speaker may require transportation to and from presentation location

So You Want to Save a Life? Facts About Organ Transplant

Speaker – J. Thomas Kidd

- Separating myth from reality – there's a lot of misinformation out there.
- My wife lived nearly eighteen years with an organ transplant.

Stable Marriages

Speaker - Ellen Hetland Fenwick

- A PowerPoint presentation - 50 minutes
- Uses math formula -- if you can count, you will understand
- Formula pairs people; results are lasting relationships
- Other applications: pair people with jobs, college admissions

“The Aaronburg Story”

Speaker – Vonnie Henninger

- Hear how Aaron Levy, a Jewish land owner, laid out Aaronburg and gave the settlers land for a church, school and burial ground and a fine pewter communion set at the church’s dedication.
- This PowerPoint presentation demonstrates the pageant by the citizens of Centre County which strengthened the understanding among people of different religious faiths, colors and creeds.
- Learn about the over 30,000 people who gathered for this historic presentation on October 23, 1949; including movie actor, Cornel Wilde, who narrated the pageant which was attended by national, international and local government leaders.

The Historic Roots of Oil – Middle East Mess

Speaker – J. Thomas Kidd

- What do you know about Middle Eastern borders? Tribes? Cultures?
- 22 million people without a country
- Islam is as fractured as Christianity

The “Unofficial” Guide to Buying and Selling a Home

Speaker – Ann Marie Rehmert, Retired Realtor

- This retired realtor will give you an overview of what it takes to sell your home yourself.
- Tips on preparing your home for sale
- Buyers and Sellers Glossary
- Copies of her pamphlet "Sell Your Home Yourself" copyright 1992

The Community College in American Higher Education

Speaker - Robert A. Chapman

- Unique to the United States, the Community College's birth and evolution in American Higher Education.

The Sonoran and other North American Deserts*

Speaker - Robert A. Chapman

- The what, where and why of North American Deserts with special focus on the Sonoran Desert.

*Limited to school aged groups

The Twentieth Century – Then and Now

Speaker – Rosma Jane Cawi

- Early 20th century – life, education, medicine
- Dramatic change after World War I and World War II
- Education

Please note – this speaker may require transportation to and from presentation location

Those Amazing Animals of the Sonoran Desert*

Speaker - Robert A. Chapman

- The animals of the Sonoran Desert and how they thrive and survive in a desert environment.

*Limited to school aged groups

Tri-County Habitat for Humanity

Speaker - Lam Hood

- Tri-County Habitat for Humanity has partnered with families and the community in building 40 homes since 1984. Five more homes will be constructed 2006-2007 in Millheim and Coburn.
- In 2006, a Habitat store (ReStore) will be established in Bellefonte. The ReStore will sell new and used building materials at a fraction of the original cost. All of the proceeds from the ReStore will be used to build more homes for God's people in need of adequate housing.
- Learn more about the Habitat ministry and how you and/or your organization can be involved as a volunteer in a variety of ways.

Volunteering

Speaker – Barbara Sommers

- The joys
- The people you can help
- Amount of time required

What is a Chamber Orchestra?

Speaker – Douglas Meyer

- Discuss the symphony, philharmonic, chamber, baroque and other orchestras to make a distinction.
- Hear examples of the various choirs of the orchestra and their tone qualities.
- Talk about the history and development of The Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra/with musical examples.
- Questions and discussions with the audience.

Who's Afraid of Classical Music?

Speaker – Douglas Meyer

- Give a brief description of WHAT IS CLASSICAL MUSIC AND WHAT IS NOT.
- Make a connection between the composers of classical music and world and American history.
- Discover just how classical music has connected with your life.
- Hear samples of classical music from several centuries and leave a bit of time for audience questions and discussion.