How a Railroad Lawyer Became the Great Emancipator
Tuesday, January 29
11-11:50 a.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Was President Lincoln really the “Great Emancipator”? Did he free the slaves? Why did he wait so long to issue the Emancipation Proclamation? Internationally recognized American legal history expert and dynamic speaker Dr. Paul Finkelman, of Albany Law School, examines Lincoln’s road to issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Finkelman considers the political and constitutional constraints on Lincoln, as well as the impact of the military progress of the Civil War on his decision to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

FEBRUARY

Freedom’s Eve: The Tradition of the Watch Night Service
Wednesday, February 6
Noon-12:50 p.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

As we recognize the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, many African-American churches continue to celebrate the Watch Night service in commemoration of the night before the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863. The Reverend Dr. Edward B. Smart, pastor of the “First” Israel AME Church in Albany, speaks about the tradition of the Watch Night service and its historical link to Freedom’s Eve. He draws from Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, the experience of his own church community and that of the wider African-American community through the ages.

Lincoln’s Five Key Decisions
Thursday, February 21
1-1:50 p.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Seth Bongartz, executive director of Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, Vermont, focuses on five key decisions Abraham Lincoln made during his presidency and how those decisions are evidence of his extraordinary effort to save the Union. Bongartz illustrates Lincoln’s unparalleled combination of intellect, good sense and leadership.
"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" is an exhibition that explores how President Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war—the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties.

MARCH

Lincoln’s Other Address: Making Over the Hildene Farm in Manchester, Vermont
Tuesday, March 5
Noon-12:50 p.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Mark Lee Wesner, of Keefe & Wesner Architects in North Bennington, Vermont, discusses the recent historic preservation projects at Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home in nearby Manchester. The surviving members of the Lincoln family spent a good deal of time in Vermont and left a lasting legacy of buildings and small-scale farming. Hildene is now an educational center of ecology, sustainable farming, cheese making and history.

"Ballin’ at the Graveyard"
Wednesday, March 20
Noon-12:50 p.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

"Ballin’ at the Graveyard" is a gritty and intimate look into the culture and community of pickup basketball as told by a group of hardcore ballers. The film also provides a revealing glimpse into the off-the-court struggles and triumphs of a core group of these urban basketball players. Co-directors Paul Kentoffio and Basil Anastassiou, a local pickup baller, discuss how they created and produced the documentary. A question and answer session follows the presentation.

Film Showings:
Wednesday, March 13, 11 a.m., Library Multipurpose Room
Thursday, March 14, 2 p.m., Library Multipurpose Room
Friday, March 15, Noon, Library Multipurpose Room
Wednesday, March 20, 10 a.m., BTC Auditorium
Film length: 83 minutes

APRIL

Service to Others: Perspectives from the Three Abrahamic Faiths
Tuesday, April 9
1-1:50 p.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Judaism, Christianity and Islam are referred to as the Abrahamic faiths, based on their shared roots with the historic figure Abraham. While religious differences are often a source of conflict, can attitudes toward community service provide common ground? Rabbi Daniel Ornstein, Anne Patnode and Imam Djafer Sekhaoui—representatives from the Capital Region’s Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities—describe how their religious beliefs call them to serve others, and identify current and planned local interfaith service projects. Hudson Valley Community College Chaplain Cylon George moderates the presentation.

Energy, Environment and a Sustainable Economy: What Does This Mean for Today’s Students?
Thursday, April 25
Noon-12:50 p.m.
Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium

Bill Reinhardt, former senior project manager at NYSERDA and cofounder of SustainNYSERDA, discusses how peak oil and climate change issues will affect potential career paths of students. Reinhardt explains future energy and environmental challenges, their impact on local and global economies and their effects on educational opportunities. His talk focuses on how college students can best plan their education in anticipation of this changing economy. A question and answer session follows the presentation.
"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The traveling exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" is based on an exhibition of the same name developed by the National Constitution Center.

Mission Statement
The mission of Voices: A Library Lecture Series is to broaden and enrich the scope of studies at Hudson Valley Community College by presenting speakers on timely and enduring issues and freely sharing these lectures and discussions with the community.

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Graphics Department
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Committee Members
Mary Ellen Bolton Cylon George James LaBate Gail Roberts
Sushmita Chatterji Brenda Hazard Robert Matthews Patricia Watt
Anne Dearing Cynthia Koman

For information, call (518) 629-7336
www.hvcc.edu/voices
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