Wrongful Convictions in a Broken Public Defense System

Jonathan E. Gradess, long-time executive director of the New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA), speaks of the history, goals and challenges of the NYSDA. Centering his presentation on what it means to be falsely accused or convicted of a crime, a problem public defenders and their clients face throughout the country, Gradess uses examples from his vast experience to illustrate these serious situations. Understaffed, overloaded and overwhelmed, public defenders – without resources, barred from pretrial discovery and many times without investigators of their own – are often co-opted into being part of the problem of convicting the innocent.

Monarch Butterflies: An Endangered Migration

Ernest Williams, professor of Biology at Hamilton College and a butterfly ecologist for more than 30 years, speaks about the long-term decline of North America’s much beloved monarch butterfly. Williams discusses the causes of the downward trend, including the loss of habitat for breeding and overwintering, as well as the effects of climate change, and describes conservation initiatives that would help to reverse the downward trend.

Soldiers’ Stories from World War II: Where Do We Find Such Men?

Robert N. Going is an attorney in Amsterdam, New York, who writes on a wide variety of subjects. His first history book, Honor Roll: The World War II Dead of Amsterdam, NY (2010), provides a brief biography of each of the 176 Amsterdam soldiers who died in the war. His next book, Where Do We Find Such Men? (2013), includes longer and more specific stories from key events in the war. In this talk, Going tells the stories of the men and women from Amsterdam who served in World War II.

Is There a Low Carbon Diet in Your Future?

Oliver S. Holmes, adjunct assistant professor in the School of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, teaches courses in building systems and sustainable design. Holmes examines how all the choices we make in our daily lives—food, housing, recreation and transportation—are interrelated, and links our individual actions to climate change.

Parenting a Transgendered Child

James Collins, professor of Anthropology, University at Albany, and Fiona Thompson, volunteer coordinator, Albany School District, discuss their personal experiences as parents of a transgendered son. They also share their observations of the civil rights struggle of transgendered people in South Africa, where they lived for six months as part of a Fulbright Scholarship.

Ancient Egyptian Mummies and their Coffins

Two 21st Dynasty (1085-945 BC) mummies and coffins have been on view at the Albany Institute of History & Art since they were purchased in 1909 from the Cairo Museum. One elaborately decorated coffin was made for Ankhefenmut, a priest in the temple of the goddess Mut 3,000 years ago. Erika Sanger, director of education at the institute, shares what has been learned about Ankhefenmut, about daily life and about the political and social conflicts of life during that time period.
All presentations will be video streamed at: http://new.livestream.com/hvccstreaming/voices

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Committee Members
Sushmita Chatterji
Anne Dearing
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Brenda Hazard
Cynthia Koman
James LaBate
Robert Matthews
G. G. Roberts
Patricia Watt

Contributors
John Ostwald

Artwork
Stackers: Out of Context and Space Stations sculptures created by Mara Lefebvre.

Mara Lefebvre received her degree in Fine Art and Arts Administration from Skidmore College, has taught art workshops, curated art shows and exhibited throughout the northeast. She is the assistant director of the Office of Special Events at Hudson Valley Community College.

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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