



HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

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MEDIA RELEASE
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“WASHINGTON AT WAR: THE EVERGREEN STATE IN WORLD WAR I” IS TOPIC OF PRESENTATION AT MUSEUM

Historian Lorraine McConaghy to Bring *Readers’ Theater* Experience to Harbor History Museum



Gig Harbor, WA – Harbor History Museum and Humanities Washington invite the community to an engaging conversation with Lorraine McConaghy, a member of the 2017-18 Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau. This free event takes place Thursday, February 22, 2018 at Harbor History Museum, 4121 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA 98332.

One-hundred years ago in 1917, the United States entered The Great War to fight alongside our European allies. But Washington’s homefront experience began long before the country entered the war, and continued afterward.

Led by historian Lorraine McConaghy, the program begins with an illustrated introduction to war’s themes before offering a “Reader’s Theater”: a script that is read aloud together, allowing participants to speak the history they are discovering. The script includes excerpts from newspapers, diaries, writings, speeches, and correspondence, and is based on extensive research in primary source material focused on the war’s impact on Washington—and how Washington impacted the war. The reading covers the period between the successful Prohibition referendum in 1914 through Seattle’s General Strike and President Woodrow Wilson’s visit to Washington in 1919. Learn about and discuss this dramatic period of immigration, wartime industrialization, women’s rights, social change, radical labor, epidemic disease, and worldwide turmoil.

Lorraine McConaghy is a public historian who earned her PhD from the University of Washington. At the Museum of History & Industry and Washington State History Museum, her work as historian and curator has dealt with Washington at war during the Treaty War of 1855-1856, the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. She has participated in working groups concerning the opportunities of commemoration,

and presented lectures and workshops on readers' theater programs at National Council on Public History, American Association for State and Local History, and the Washington Museum Association. In 2009, her readers' theater script, *Speaking Out*, won the national performance award from the Oral History Association. In 2015, AASLH honored her *Voices of the Civil War* with a national award of merit. McConaghy's work has been honored by the Washington State Historical Society's Robert Gray Medal, the annual award of the Pacific Northwest Historians Guild, and the Humanities Washington Award.

This program is FREE thanks to Humanities Washington. RSVPs are encouraged and can be directed to Zachary Sokolik, Marketing & Events Coordinator at Harbor History Museum at marketing@harborhistorymuseum.org.

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Image credits:

Washington at War Promo (2018) by Humanities Washington

About Harbor History Museum: Harbor History Museum creates opportunities to experience the heritage of the greater Gig Harbor communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing the rich history of the area. Our vision is to be the cornerstone that provides a gathering place and a sense of identity for our community. Founded in 1964, the Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society dba Harbor History Museum opened its new facility in 2010. The museum campus includes an 1893 fully restored one-room school house; a 65-foot fishing vessel currently under restoration; 7,000 square feet of exhibition space; and a 900-square foot library, research and meeting room. The Museum provides a variety of public education programs. Our core educational program is the Pioneer School Experience (PSE), which serves over 1,400 students every year. Led by a trained "School Marm," the children experience a pioneer school classroom complete with lessons, recitations, music, recess, and lunch. Our permanent exhibit features professionally designed exhibitions, larger-than-life experiences, and opportunities for hands-on exploration of our region's rich history and unique heritage. Artifacts, video kiosks, hands-on exhibits, computer interactives, and a small theater bring Peninsula history to life in our permanent galleries. In addition, the Museum provides 3-5 special exhibits throughout the year so there is always something new to see and experience for our members and visitors.

WINTER HOURS (Jan. – April) — Wednesdays–Fridays 10 am–5 pm, Saturdays 10 pm–4 pm.

SUMMER HOURS (May – Dec.) — Tuesdays–Saturdays 10 am–5 pm, Sundays 12 pm–4 pm.

ADMISSION – Complimentary Admission for all visitors courtesy of the City of Gig Harbor.

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