SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The staff of the Schenectady County Historical Society is pleased to offer a variety of outreach programs to community organizations. These programs are free of charge, although donations to the Historical Society are welcome. Below is a current list of programs we are able to offer. If you are interested in booking an outreach program with us, please contact Mike Diana at (518) 887-5073 or email educator@schenectadyhistorical.org.

Boomtown: Immigration, Technology, and Urban Schenectady
Humans are always on the move. We seek new opportunities and face challenges as we adapt to changes in the world around us. For tens of thousands of immigrants, Schenectady County offered its own opportunities and challenges. This talk explores why people immigrate and the unprecedented impact of immigration and technology on urban Schenectady.

Changing Waters: The Story of the Mohawk River and Erie Canal
How has the river that stretches from one end of our county to the other changed our lives, and how have we influenced the river over the centuries? You might be surprised to find out just how big of an impact local waterways have on your life! Join our speaker for a journey through the times and tides of the Mohawk River and Erie Canal.

Colonial to Craft Brew: The Local Story of Beer
the first Dutch settlers arriving in New Netherland to today's growing craft beer trend, beer has played an important role in our history. Agriculture, transportation, technology, politics, and social issues have all played a part in beer's history, and it in turn has affected our own lives.

Finding Your Schenectady County Ancestor
Genealogy research in New York State can often be frustrating and time consuming. This overview of genealogical resources in Schenectady County will guide you towards local resources and repositories to help you research your ancestors from Schenectady County.

It Came From Schenectady: Science Fiction in the Capital Region
What if you had a superpower? What if you could travel through time? What if machines overtook Schenectady? "What if" questions inspire writers, artists, and filmmakers to create new worlds and imagine alternate realities. This talk explores the "what ifs" that inspired the creations of local science fiction innovators, including Kurt Vonnegut, P. Schuyler Miller, Ray Nelson, Glendora, and Pamela Sargent and the legacy of science fiction in Schenectady County.

Local Eats! What does your food say about you?
Does what you eat represent who you are? Can someone learn about politics, technology, or where you come from by looking at what is on your plate? This program answers these questions by looking at the history and heritage of local Schenectady food traditions.

Making History: The Schenectady County Historical Society
Is history relevant today? How can we bring it to life for people of all ages and backgrounds? In what ways can we promote the vibrant culture of our region? The Schenectady County Historical Society staff and volunteers ponder these questions and more, distilling the region's rich heritage and history into exciting programs and exhibits. Join us as we explore initiatives, ideas, and challenges faced by local historians in the 21st century.

Mysteries of the Mabee Farm: Uncovering the Story of a 300 Year Old Farmstead
The oldest farm in the Mohawk Valley (1705), Mabee Farm is a site steeped in history – and mysteries! From the weathered pine floors in the home of settlers Jan and Annetje, to the hand-pegged Dutch Barn, to the site's elusive 1600s fur trading post, what mysteries lie buried beneath Mabee Farm's soil? Archaeology, research, and deduction help us answer some questions – many more remain unsolved mysteries!

Preserving Family Photographs and Documents
Do you have old family photographs, letters, diaries, or other precious items that you would like to preserve? This presentation will discuss how to properly preserve your family's important documents and photos. It will also provide tips on how to store, display, label, and handle these materials. Preserving these materials will assist family members, now or in the future, to retrace and reconstruct your family history.

Stockade Secrets
Schenectady's Stockade is a national jewel, boasting the highest concentration of historic period homes in the nation. For over 300 years Schenectadians have called the Stockade home, and the streets are alive today with the stories and legends of Schenectady's past. Discover the history of America's oldest residential neighborhood!

Together Until the End: Schenectady in World War I
Devastating, morbid, and totally unprecedented, World War I changed our world entirely and redefined modernity. Now, over a century later, this program explores the Great War's effect on Schenectady and the people who lived here. The soldiers who fought, the nurses who cared, and everyone at home whose world was reshaped, completely.

Voices from the Haunted Past: Ghost Stories and Folklore from the Stockade
For centuries folks of all backgrounds have lived their lives in the Stockade neighborhood and as folklore has it, some of them never completely left. Stories about spirit sightings and strange occurrences reveal the rich history of this historic area.

Vote Here! Vote Now!
Left or right? Conservative, liberal, or independent? "Vote Here! Vote Now!" explores democracy in Schenectady, and encourages participants to consider and discuss political issues – historical and current.
Discover Schenectady's political legacy by learning how vital your voice is in local elections!