

World War I Program

Thursday, July 20, 7:00 pm Stone Academy



World War I Posters: For the Hearts and Minds of Ordinary People

Presented by Susan Talbot-Stanaway

NOTE: This is the first of a series of programs to commemorate to 100th Anniversary of America's participation in WWI. Three additional programs are planned for 2018.

President Woodrow Wilson's re-election campaign song in 1916 was entitled, "Elect Wilson, He Kept Us out of War." However, on April 6, 1917, at Wilson's urging, the United States Congress declared war against Germany. Only a few hours later, one of Wilson's most energetic campaign backers, George Creel, urged Wilson to develop means to engage the war on the home front through "expression, not suppression." The objectives were to unify people of all ages and backgrounds, including millions of immigrants, to motivate young men to enlist and women to abandon their traditional roles and become war workers. This presentation will describe the posters as works of art and propaganda, discuss the artists who created them, and articulate how posters established new American heroes and heroines with lasting importance in national history.

The lecture will also include information about the home front during the war, including stories with Zanesville connections. In community organizations, on the farm, and in the workplace, Ohioans were exposed to new roles, new beliefs, and a new sense of national unity. People, young or old, were urged to support the families of soldiers, to purchase war bonds and stamps, to dig and tend War Gardens, to undergo the hardships of rationing, and to report spies and hate the "Hun."

The program is open to the public free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided.



Susan Talbot-Stanaway is retired Director of the Zanesville Museum of Art. She is an art historian, concentrating on American Art, and has curated over 500 exhibitions. Recently her research and curatorial efforts have focused on World War I posters, American illustrators, and contemporary art quilts. She is currently cataloging the State Archive's collection of over 600 WWI posters that have never been recorded or catalogued.