

## 50-minute Historical Presentations

# Topic Catalog



John Cilio

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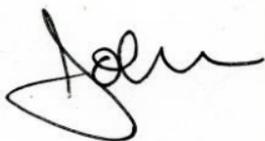
## Schedule a presentation today!

We tell the stories behind history helping our audiences laugh, wonder and enjoy learning about a wide variety of subjects. There are plenty of details in the stories shared, yet the audience gains the big picture outlook on the topic. We have developed a diverse selection of historical presentations that can delight almost any audience.

Our multi-media presentations deliver awareness across age groups that inspires lively conversations. We like to leave the audience feeling like they all have been part the session.

Some organizations hire us to present monthly entertaining talks to their residents. Libraries and community centers engage us to present topics that align to quarterly themes; others find our catalog of speaker topics solve a unique need for an entertaining discussion.

How can we help you?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John", is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

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## *The Roaring 1920s*

The 1920s era went by such names as the Jazz Age and the Roaring Twenties. For the first time, more Americans lived in cities than on farms. The ratification of the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution banned the manufacture, transportation and sale of intoxicating liquors and ushered in a period in American history known as Prohibition. During the 1920s, the United States became the richest nation on Earth. It seemed as though the Dow Jones Industrial Stock Index would never quit increasing. It's been 100 years since that time – learn more.

## *The Space Race: from Sputnik to the Shuttle*

The Space Race was a 20th-century competition between two Cold War rivals, the Soviet Union and the United States, for supremacy in spaceflight

capability. The technological superiority required for such supremacy was necessary for national security, and symbolic of ideological superiority. The Space Race spawned pioneering efforts to launch artificial satellites, unmanned probes of many planets, and human spaceflight in Earth orbit and to the Moon.

### *The Bald Eagle - Symbol of American Freedom*

A Bald Eagle is a key element of the Great Seal of the United States. It is one of six symbols recognized by the Library of Congress as an official symbol of America. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were the first to try and create an official seal for the nation. Over the years, two more committees couldn't succeed. One man stepped forward with a new design of the Great Seal and helped make the Bald Eagle part of the Great Seal in 1782 and a symbol of American Freedom.

### *The Invention of Photography*

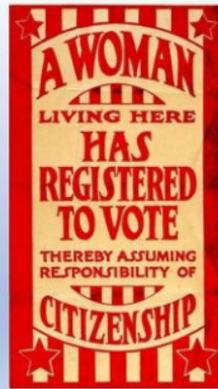
The word *photography* comes from two Greek words that mean writing with light. Renaissance artists wanted to represent a 3-D view on a flat surface and the rediscovery of the Camera Obscura began the crusade to capture a moment in time as we know it today. Learn how, over the course of 100 years,

crude images of light became the art form we know today as photography.



## A Right to Vote

The story of how America recognized women as voters



## A Right to Vote

Experience over a hundred years of struggle as forward-thinking women and men pursued the women's national right to vote. They wrestled staunch resistance over decades — political engagements gave way to open resistance and outright physical skirmishes along parade routes. Women won the right to vote in 1920.

## The Gilded Age

The Gilded Age was a period of transformation in the economy, technology, government, and social customs of America. This transformation forged a modern, national industrial society out of what had been small regional communities. It's difficult to

imagine the United States without the new inventions, innovations and the political machines that developed. *(Available after 6/20)*

### *Colonial America - The Journey to America*

The Pilgrims journeyed to North America and began colonization of what was to become the United States. After the colonists had relocated to the new world, the early notion that great fortunes were waiting to be picked up in the new land, and that gold, silver and precious stones were almost to be had for the asking, had evaporated. The colonists had come to stay and they understood that staying meant working. Hear their story. *(Available after 6/20)*

### *The Liberty Bell: Symbol of American Freedom*

The Liberty Bell is one of the world's great icons of freedom. There are many stories about the bell that ring in American hearts, not all of them true. Many Americans like to believe that the bell that became known as the Liberty Bell was first rung on July 4, 1776 from the tower of Independence Hall.

Regardless of the stories, the Liberty Bell is one of six symbols that is recognized by the Library of Congress as an official symbol of America. We look forward to sharing its true history.



## Spymistresses - The story of Allied Women Spies of WWII

We imagine spies to be masters of intrigue and deception, seducers and seductresses of exceptional talent. Many take dangerous risks, complete their missions and live to tell the tale; others don't. Spies belong to a special group of people with flexible identities, elastic morals and what has been referred to by some as situational ethics. They covertly serve their governments, some, multiple governments, and do not hesitate to kill in the service of their countries. Learn more about a few of the special women that served the Allies.

### Charles Lindbergh

Charles Lindbergh was a successful air mail pilot and became famous for making the 1927 first solo transatlantic airplane flight in the Spirit of St. Louis.

There is so much more to his story. Lindbergh advocated that the United States stay neutral in the war in Europe yet actively supported the American war effort after December 7, 1941. After the war, Lindbergh wrote several books, one which won the 1954 Pulitzer Prize and helped to usher in the age of commercial aviation.

### *Building the Lincoln Memorial*

The Lincoln Memorial is an American national monument built to honor the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. It is located on the western end of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Dedicated in 1922, it has been a major tourist attraction since the 1930s. We'll cover its construction, interior features, murals, the ceiling and its role as a national treasure.

### *Air Racing - The First 20 Years*

The first major air race occurred in 1909, northeast of Paris in the small town of Reims, France. Twenty-seven aircraft and 300,000 spectators participated. Aviation pioneers formulated the spectacle of an air show when most people had never seen an aircraft in real life. Join us and feel the sensation of speed, daring and danger as the early pilots and promoters devised a new sport.

## *The Allied Invasion of Normandy*

Learn about one of the most pivotal events of the 20th century. We underscore, through vintage photographs and stories, how the Allies succeeded. Somehow the Allies executed years of planning in near total secrecy, deceived the enemy and stockpiled men and materials, executing the most complex military exploit ever accomplished.

## *Famous Americans - Amelia Earhart*

Amelia Mary Earhart was an American aviation pioneer and author. She was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, a female pilot's organization. Her mysterious disappearance has given Earhart lasting recognition in popular culture.

## *Pearl Harbor and the Puzzle of Surprise*

The Japanese attackers traveled 3,400 miles across the Pacific to execute their 110-minute attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a total surprise – or was it? Regardless, America's involvement in the war led to the ultimate defeat of the Axis powers, ushered in a new world order, and quite literally saved the free world from destruction. There is more to the story.

## The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the French people commemorating the alliance of France and the United States during the American Revolutionary War. The Statue, standing in New York harbor, is one of six symbols recognized by the Library of Congress as an official symbol of America. Affectionately known as Lady Liberty, she has become one of the most famous icons in all the world.

## The Symbol of Uncle Sam

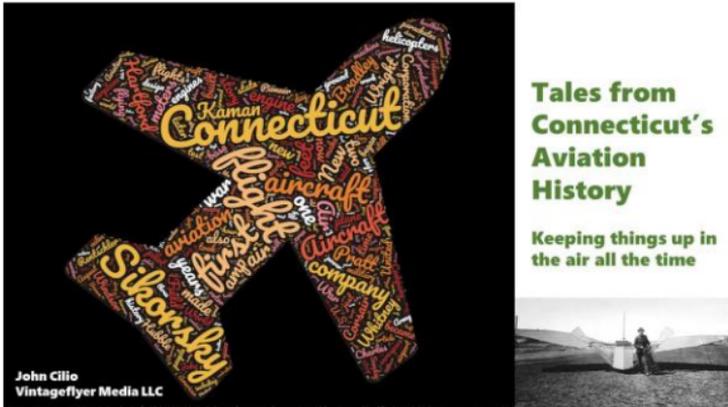
Uncle Sam is the most popular personification of the United States, yet many Americans have little or no concept of his origins. Often, when one thinks of Uncle Sam, the picture that comes to mind is from the army recruiting poster so prevalent during World War I, yet he is much older. Uncle Sam is one of six symbols that is recognized by the Library of Congress as an official symbol of America. (*Available after 6/20*)

## Famous American Chiefs – Pontiac & Tecumseh

We'll tell some of the stories about how Native American chiefs tried to lead their people in resisting European occupation. The stories helped make Chief Pontiac famous for his role in the 1763 Pontiac's Rebellion, against the British occupation of the Great

Lakes area. We'll share more stories about Tecumseh, a respected chief of the Shawnee Indians who envisioned organizing the various Indian tribes to resist white settlement in the early 1800s.

*(Available after 6/20)*



## Tales from Connecticut's Aviation History

Enjoy hearing some of the stories that unfolded in Connecticut's rich and perpetual history of aviation innovation. Covering 17 decades, there are many celebrated accomplishments that helped pioneer early flight and motivate brave fliers. Who knew that Connecticut, once the leader in U.S. stagecoach travel, would evolve to provide the global aviation community critical engines, instruments and technologies?



## *Titanic - A Date with Destiny*

Listen as we tell the story of the Titanic - its celebrated construction, employing thousands during difficult times, its sailing and final plunge to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean. Few know that the Titanic's plunge into the frigid Atlantic was predicted more than a decade before the disaster. In a strange twist of fate, the author inadvertently foretold his own death. He was onboard the Titanic when it sank in April 1912. Join us as we share insights about a well-known story that might change your viewpoint of that fateful date with destiny.

## *American Airpower: Bombers*

More than 75 years ago the world witnessed a terrible war. It took 3 ½ years to end the war and one of the key offensive weapons was the bomber. Our talk highlights how bombers helped to win the

war and shares a sense for how complex America's defense really was. The presentation includes the U.S. Army Air Force and Navy bombers from just before WWII through the cold war.

*Shhhh... Listen! Do you hear the sound of a French lifestyle?*

France is a special place on earth. Its people enjoy some of the longest lives on the planet and a unique lifestyle. It's the most visited country in the world while it represents less than 1% of the world's population. Through the presentation you will see some of the rich visual splendors the country has to offer and learn how their lifestyle embodies a unique way of living. It's all about savoring the small moments, choosing quality over quantity, and squeezing enjoyment and pleasure into the moment.

*Passenger Miles: The Quest for Supremacy*

The story of America is a story of a country whose people have always been on the move. After the American Revolution, America's mass transit was stage coach, eventually losing passengers to the railroads. Railroads changed America but eventually they too succumbed to competition. Commercial airlines began to carry more passengers than the railroads as the fifties unfolded. What's next?



## *The Destiny of One*

WWI has a number of enduring legends but none greater than that of the contribution made by 38 American aviators flying in the Escadrille Lafayette. They were Americans flying for the French before America declared war. Their exploits and contributions were so well known that after the war, more than 4,000 claimed to have flown with the unit. These American men were larger than life in the eyes of all countries including France, America and Germany. Learn how their service helped to change the outcome of WWI.

## *Women's Work in WWII*

The presentation tells the story about the workplace momentum that women built during WWII as 16 million men were drafted and women steadily increased their ability to take ever increasing

responsibilities. We highlight the struggles and accomplishments that women made during the war, both in the military as well as in the workforce in general. Dozens of vintage photographs are used to reinforce the stories. We close the presentation highlighting the 1960s gender focused legislative changes that changed the workplace forever.



Telling the  
stories of history  
is our business.

## Speaker Profile

John Cilio has been on the historical storyteller speaker circuit for over 10 years. He has seven published books ranging from historical aviation topics to women's accomplishments in the WWII workplace. His fifty plus articles have been published nationally in newspapers and magazines and in private manufacturer magazines.

He is an American Marketing Association Award winner and has partnered with organizations including Cessna Aircraft, the State of Connecticut, the National Archives and the Smithsonian in support of sponsored presentations. John Cilio is an honorary member of the WWII Connecticut Lost Squadron organization.

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Presentations start at \$150. Please inquire for your location.