“Diamonds and dirt, legends and rude boys, poets that are no poets at all... Life sweeps you away like a piss river.” - Cavedweller by Dorothy Allison, 2020 West Virginia Common Read Author
Speak Storytelling Series

7:30 p.m.
Reynolds Hall
109 North King Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
For more details see www.speakstoryseries.com. Shepherd students are free. Community and public school outreach funded by the Shepherd University President’s Club through the generosity of President Mary J.C. Hendrix.

Tuesday, March 10
African American Teller, Charlotte Blake Austin

Tuesday, April 14
Appalachian Heritage Storytellers-in-Residence, Sparkey and Rhonda Rucker

Tuesday, May 12
Kevin Kling

Tuesday, June 9
Laura Packer

Tuesday, July 14
Tim Lee

Tuesday, August 11
Adam Booth

Tuesday, September 8
Rachel Ann Harding

Tuesday, October 13
Erika Kate McDonald and Paul Strickland

Tuesday, November 10
Donna Washington

I Have A Dream: Revisioning the American Dream for African Americans, as Seen in the Work of Three Appalachian Writers, Henry Louis Gates, Jr, Nikki Giovanni, and Frank X Walker with Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt

Monday, January 20 | Noon-1 p.m.
Robinwood Professional Center
Suite 142
Hagerstown, Maryland
Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt shares the work of three Shepherd University Appalachian Heritage Writers-in-Residence and how they helped shape the American Dream, a Martin Luther King Jr Holiday Program. RSVP Jeanette Brill at 301-790-8296 or jeanette.brill@meritushealth.com.

Grandma Gatewood’s Walk, An Appalachian Story

Wednesday, March 11
7 p.m.
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
213 North King Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Screening of award winning documentary and discussion about this remarkable “trailblazer,” the first woman to walk the Appalachian Trail at the youthful age of 67. Her story is an Appalachian story but also an American story of triumph and overcoming adversity and domestic abuse. Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt hosts the event and leads discussion after the film. This event will launch the series “Growing Old in America and Living Life Artfully.”

The John Brown Farm: Launchpad of the Modern Civil Rights Movement with Ed Maliskas

Friday, January 31 | 7 p.m.
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
213 North King Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Author Ed Maliskas will talk about his research involving the Civil War and civil rights activist John Brown and his ideas about this region being the heart of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Black Huntington and the Rise of the African American Middle Class in West Virginia with Dr. Cicero Fain

Friday, February 28 | 7 p.m.
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
213 North King Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Dr. Fain will share his research as part of African American History Month. Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst (History) hosts the evening.

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SAIL’s Hear This! Sharing Stories Across Generations

Thursday, March 12 | 7 p.m.
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
213 North King Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
SAIL will feature the best stories of the season with Adam Booth and storytellers young and older. This is a SAIL fund-raising event; tickets are $40 (Shepherd University students are free).

The Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project, Telling Appalachia’s Story

Tuesday, April 7 | 8:30 a.m.
Blue Ridge Kiwanis Club
Dr. Shurbutt will share the story of the Writer-in-Residence Project and the many programs that evolved from this creative idea of many that started some 20 years ago.

Matewan in Our Memory, Centennial Remembrance

Friday, April 24 | 7 p.m.
Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
213 North King Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
Frank Keaney’s grandson Charles Keaney speaks about the lessons and controversies of the West Virginia Mine War.

Readings from the 2020 Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Crystal Wilkinson Volume XII

Sunday, July 12 | 5 p.m.
Four Seasons Books
116 West German Street
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
This volume contains the work of Frank X Walker, Crystal Wilkinson, Nikki Giovanni, Marc Harshman, and a range of writers across the Appalachian region and West Virginia. The book is supported by the West Virginia Center for the Book, the West Virginia Humanities Council, and the Shepherd University Foundation.