

Exploring Human Origins

What Does It Mean To Be Human?



December

4 EXHIBITION OPENING

Dr. Rick Potts, the exhibition curator and director of the Smithsonian NMNH Origins Program, will give a lecture for the general public about the latest research in human evolution and an overview of exhibition themes and messages.

6:30 pm, Avon Library Community Room

5 Clergy Tour

Event for clergy and community leaders. This is a focused event for clergy and community leaders to explore the exhibit with NMNH Human Origins Program scientific and education staff and BSIC members.

11:00am-12:30 pm, Avon Library Community Room

5 Educator Workshop

The workshop is for classroom teachers, science and nature center and museum educators, homeschoolers and other local educators. It will feature exploration and hands-on practice in presenting the Human Origins Program resources provided for each community

3:30pm-6:00 pm, Avon Library Community Room

5 Community Conversation: "What Does it Mean to Be Human?,"

Led by BSIC co-chairs Drs. Connie Bertka and Jim Miller. Join with other members of your community to explore together a variety of answers to the question "What does it mean to be human?" in small group discussions led by Drs. Connie Bertka and Jim Miller (co-chairs of the Smithsonian Broader Social Impacts Committee – BSIC).

6:30-8:00 pm, Avon Library Community Room

December

10 New England's Stone Walls

ENew England stone walls are the signature landform of rural New England. Professor Thorson will provide an overview of the subject with an emphasis on their symbolism, and will end with suggestions for conservation

6:30 pm, via Zoom

14 What Darwin Really Said (and what he didn't).

Charles Darwin has been one of the most misunderstood, misinterpreted, misquoted, and even misused of scientists. Presented by Michael Alan Park, Ph.D.

2:00 pm, Avon Library Community Room

17 The Horse: A Galloping History of Humanity

From New York Times bestselling author of *The Mosquito*, the incredible story of how the horse shaped human history. Dr. Timothy C. Winegard's *The Horse* is an epic history unlike any other!

6:30 pm, Avon Library Community Room

Our partners for this project include: Avon Congregational Church, Avon Land Trust, Avon Historical Society, Avon Senior Center, Farmington River Watershed Association, Farmington Valley American Muslim Center, Friends of the Avon Library, West Avon Congregational Church

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2 Interfaith Panel Discussion

Join us for an in-person, interfaith discussion of what it means to be human. What does each faith believe? Where do we come from? What is the origin of belief? This panel discussion will answer those questions, and probably generate a few more!

2:00 pm, Avon Library Community Room

5 How to be Perfect: Discussion with Dr. Agnes B. Curry

Join us for an in-person discussion of the book *How to be Perfect*; we'll explore the questions, themes, and ideas within the book. About *How to be Perfect*: From the creator of *The Good Place* and the co-creator of *Parks and Recreation*, a hilarious, thought-provoking guide to living an ethical life, drawing on 2,400 years of deep thinking from around the world.

2:00 pm, Avon Library Community Room

6 Stories that ROCK: Geology for grades 4-6

Learn about local geology with Howard Wright, middle school science teacher and Science Department Head at Renbrook School, located in West Hartford, CT, who will have lots of cool rocks to touch and see during the program.

4:30 pm, Avon Library Community Room

January

7 Page to Stage: Hamlet

Examine the publishing process during Shakespeare's time, how that process influenced what is universally accepted today as the work of William Shakespeare, and the ongoing role of the modern editor. Presented by Shakespeare on the Sound.

3:00 pm, Avon Library Community Room

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