



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

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Hurricane Agnes: LancasterHistory to Host Virtual Discussion on How 'Storm of the Century' Shaped Modern Disaster Response

"Playing Politics with Disaster" Author to Discuss Impact of Hurricane Agnes

LANCASTER, Pa. – Though the storm hit over 50 years ago, the lasting impact of Hurricane Agnes still reverberates today. On Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., LancasterHistory will host “Playing Politics with Disaster,” a virtual lecture on the storm, its context, and its impact.

This discussion will focus on the intersection of politics and disaster, exploring how political decisions impact disaster response and recovery efforts and how Hurricane Agnes influenced the 1972 presidential election which elected Richard Nixon to a second term.

The event will feature Dr. Timothy W. Kneeland, author of *Playing Politics with Natural Disaster: Hurricane Agnes, the 1972 Election, and the Origins of FEMA*. Kneeland is a professor of History at Nazareth College and the Director of the Center for Public History there. He writes about American politics, disaster policy, science, and psychiatry.

Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions if the speaker and engage in lively discussion during the event.

“We are thrilled to bring this conversation to Lancaster,” Dr. Mabel M. Rosenheck, Director of Education and Exhibition Planning for LancasterHistory, said. “Hurricane Agnes was a seminal event for many in the region, and disasters can profoundly impact communities. It is crucial that we understand the role politics plays in these situations.”

“Playing Politics with Disaster” is a free event that will take place virtually on Zoom. For more information and to register, please visit the event page at

<https://www.lancasterhistory.org/events/playing-politics-with-disaster/>.

About LancasterHistory

LancasterHistory is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States, to advance the missions of regional historical organizations, and to promote the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of resources representing the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania within the broader context of state and national history, including the life and legacy of America’s 15th President, James Buchanan, and to preserve and maintain Wheatland, his home.

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