

Presents



HOUSTON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

**Presents**

**"Creating Good Citizens - A  
Curriculum that works"**

by

**Donna Passmore & Jan  
Smulcer**

**Co-Directors of:  
Values Through History  
a 501(c)3 Educational Non-Profit**

**January 19, 2017**

**683rd  
Meeting of the Houston Philosophical Society**

**ABSTRACT**

Through Bayou Bend school tours, they discovered that almost all students – no matter what grade level from elementary through college, or how outstanding the school – knew almost nothing about the founding of the country, its heroes, or the principles upon which the government is built. But they also discovered these students were eager to learn.

Teachers said there was no way to teach these matters well in the time available with the materials they had. When Donna and Jan saw that their own children were also being affected, and then discovered that across the country there was no solution, they put aside their other professions and began.

In response to educators' frustration with lack of any effective way to instill good citizenship and teach American history in the time available, the Why America Is Free Curriculum was created. Integrated across all subjects, this innovative, hands-on approach meets or exceeds all state standards as it brings to life the extraordinary events, times, issues, and heroes of the founding period in an intense immersion for upper elementary students. It does so in a way that expands minds, generates respect, strengthens character, and unifies students as Americans. While igniting their intellectual excitement and imaginations, this curriculum also gives students the crucial decision-making skills, civic principles, and awareness of ownership responsibilities necessary for them to evolve into responsible citizens.

The developers of the curriculum now used with outstanding success in 12 states, Donna Passmore and Jan Smulcer, will speak about the national need, the hurdles to solution, new bipartisan legislation, and show how the curriculum serves as an essential element in that solution.

[www.valuesthroughhistory.org](http://www.valuesthroughhistory.org)

## **SPEAKER'S BIO**



Donna has a background in criminal and constitutional law, as well as in education. During courtroom, grand jury, and k-12 classroom experience, she designed and used innovative teaching methods to involve and teach broadly diverse groups.



Jan has a background in business, period architecture restoration and design, and innovative teaching methods. She has received the City of Houston Good Brick Award in recognition of her contribution to the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of Houston's architectural and cultural heritage.

## RESERVATION & COST INFORMATION

**Cocktail Reception, Dinner & Lecture  
19 January, 2017 / 6pm - 9pm  
Cohen House, Rice University**

**Dinner Meeting \$40 per person**

**Please remember to pay your dues  
\$85 per year**

**For Reservations call Dale Wilkins: (713) 839-0808  
or  
Reply to email: [dale@amchouston.com](mailto:dale@amchouston.com)**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Happy New Year and welcome back to the second half of the HPS year! We have an exciting program of outstanding speakers this year, including our January 19 with Donna Passmore & Jan Smulcer. We hope to see you there. Please note that the by-laws require that every member attend at least one meeting each year to sustain membership. Also, nominations for new members are welcome and must be submitted prior to the March meeting.

Regards

**J. Patrick Hughes**

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**President  
Houston Philosophical Society**