

JUANITA BROOKS 2026 CONFERENCE & LECTURE SERIES

Juanita Brooks (1898–1989)

Historian, author, and educator, was a trailblazer in the field of Southern Utah history. She is admired for her immense courage in addressing difficult subjects within her community.

The Annual Juanita Brooks Conference

Aiming to honor her legacy, the conference will continue to instill the value of history and its accurate preservation. In conjunction with the Juanita Brooks Lecture Series, this Conference will be an all-day gathering of scholarship and community.

The Annual Juanita Brooks Lecture Series

Reaching the 40th Lecture deserves a celebration. In honor of this milestone, we would like to extend a special invitation to all previous speakers 1984-2026 to join us for a special evening of thanks and honor following the conference. Without their contributions to the preservation and sharing of history, the series would never have reached this 40th lecture.

Please RSVP for this event at thebrooksmuseum@gmail.com

Schedule of Events

17 April 2026

8:45am

Welcome

9:00am-12:00pm

Presentations

12:00-2:00pm

Lunch (food trucks)

2:00-4:30pm

Presentations

4:30-5:00pm

Panel Discussion with former Lecture Series speakers

5:30-6:30pm

Reception for Lecture Series speakers

7:00-8:00pm

Lecture Series
Speaker: Lyman Hafen,
St. George Tabernacle

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JUANITA BROOKS 2026 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:45 am Welcome from St George City - Marc Mortensen, Director of Operations
Welcome from Utah Tech University - Pres Shane Smeed, President
Introduction JBHPS Director - Sharla Brooks Moody

9:00-10:15am Session 1

Macrae Heppler -St George Videographer and co owner Eagle Gate Title
"What's Happening in St George"

Cristina Sessions -Bunkerville Librarian and Local Historian
"Bunkerville Nevada 1877: The Founders and Their Divine Testaments"

Trevor Cox -Interim Head of Special Collections Utah Tech University
"Then and Now: a Visual History of Change in Washington County, Utah."

Ricky Valadez -Film and Television Composer, Producer: Not Forgotten Podcast
"Connecting with the voices of the past through music"

10:30-11:45am Session 2

Brian Wages -History and Political Science Librarian HBL Library, BYU
"From Marysville to Hollywood: How a Utah Girl Became a Film Star"

Dr. Reid Neilson -Asst Academic Vice Pres and Professor at BYU
"Pioneer Utah, Gold Rush California, and British Hong Kong: The Mid- Nineteenth-Century Worlds of Latter-day Saint Missionary Hosea Stout"

Dr. Todd Compton - Author and Educator
"Ganado Mucho/Totsohnii Hastiin, Navajo chief and friend of Jacob Hamblin"

Kimball Clark - Kindex
"AI Made Me Hug Strangers: What Changed—and What Has Not"

12:00-2:00pm Table Time and Lunch (Bring your own or buy - options and map will be provided)

1:00-2:00pm (optional)

Kimball Clark -Bonus Presentation-Bring lunch and learn about new ways to preserve family history.

2:15-3:30pm Session 3

Ryan Combs — Cloud Engineer, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
"Mountain Meadows" in Juanita's Biography of Dudley Leavitt

Barbara Jones Brown -Co-author, Vengeance is Mine and Director, Signature Books
"The Mountain Meadows Massacre: Juanita Brooks's Twentieth-century Influence on Twenty-first-century Publications and Reconciliation"

Dr. Richard Saunders -Professor, Library and Information Science, SUU
"Juanita Reprised, Re-appraised, or Re-prized"

Dr. Antone L. (Tony) Brooks - Retired Research Professor, Scientist, Son of Juanita Brooks
"My Mother, Juanita Brooks"

5:45-6:30pm Meet and Greet - former Lecture Series Speakers and families

7:00pm Lecture Series featuring Lyman Hafen in the St George Tabernacle



Speaker Bios