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# Mason County District Library

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Historian Gary Gerstle to Discuss Rise (and Fall?) of “Reaganomics”

On December 14, 7-8:30 pm, the public series *Cairns & Beacons: Finding Our Way in a Post-Pandemic World* will host historian and author Gary Gerstle, “Free Markets: From Ronald Reagan to Barak Obama.” The series is presented by Mason County District Library (MCDL) and the nonprofit Abondia Center.

Praised for his clear and understandable analysis, Gerstle narrates the path of what’s often called “Reaganomics” or “neoliberalism.” Gerstle traces how this economic system started with President Ronald Reagan and continued under the presidencies of fellow Republican Presidents George Bush and George W. Bush. Gerstle then tracks how neoliberalism won over Democratic Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. In the end, from the 1970s to 2008 neoliberalism became how both majority parties envisioned the best economic path for the nation.

“I generally thought discussions of economics were all about numbers, commented MCDL Head of Circulation and co-host Thomas Trahey. “But with our presenters in this series, I have found how interesting and helpful it is hear about various economic systems and projects. To my surprise,” Trahey continued, “examining ‘economics’ has been about taking a look at

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how different approaches emerge to address concerns in different times and how these different approaches affect how both people and the nation thrive, or go awry,”

Fellow co-host Abondia Center director Brooke Portmann commented, “Like so many others, when I first heard the term ‘neoliberalism’ my eyes rolled. But between reading Gerstle’s book about it and listening to him give bookstore and other community presentations, I understood it and realized how valuable and even empowering it was to understand its strengths and its weaknesses.”

“Participants in our past sessions have commented how they’ve unexpectedly found the sessions about economics of real interest to them,” added co-host Robin Seymour, MCDL’s Head of Adult Services. “We are excited to host Gary Gerstle.”

The presentation is free and available on Zoom from anywhere, and at MCDL’s Ludington branch. “Free Markets: From Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama” with Gary Gerstle will be presented live and online on Thursday, December 14, 7-8:30 PM.

For more information see [bit.ly/cairnsandbeacons](https://bit.ly/cairnsandbeacons), and, for those wanting to attend online, use the case-sensitive link: [bit.ly/CairnsAndBeacons](https://bit.ly/CairnsAndBeacons)

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