

Hello, Programmers:

Now in its 13th edition, the Chicago Writers Association Speakers Bureau continues its run as a go-to resource for local venues seeking high-quality, spirited programs. This year's Speakers Bureau menu features:

- 57 original programs from 33 local presenters
- 21 new programs touching on topics ranging from Chicago history and travel to pop culture and professional development

Should you have interest in a specific program, including the option of a virtual program, please contact the presenter directly for additional information or to schedule an event at your venue.

We hope you see the CWA Speakers Bureau menu as a valuable resource in your efforts to bring engaging, informative, and inspiring programs to your audiences.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Smith, Founder and Director  
CWA Speakers Bureau  
(708) 717-6126  
turnleftcreative@gmail.com

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# Chicago Writers Association Speakers Bureau



## 2024 Program Menu

*Compelling Speakers at Your Fingertips.*

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

## LOCAL CONNECTIONS

### **“The Path to *On the Job: Murder, Reflection, and Where TV Cop Shows Fail*” by Daniel P. Smith**

As the relationship between the police and the public continues generating attention, *On the Job: Behind the Stars of the Chicago Police* author Daniel P. Smith guides audiences into the closed-door society that is the Chicago Police Department. Sharing never-before-told stories of the tolls the job exacts on the officers, their families, and their lives while interweaving a discussion of Chicago’s criminal landscape, police department culture, and history, Smith discusses the unique personal experiences that led him to pen his debut work. (Adults; 75 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Cindy Kline, Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760 x230, cindyk@ippl.info; Jeannine Kacmar, Palos Heights Public Library, j9kacmar@gmail.com

**Contact:** smithwriting@gmail.com, (708) 717-6126

### **“Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick” by Andrea Friederici Ross**

Meet Edith, a lost figure of Chicago history. Daughter of John D. Rockefeller and wife of harvester heir Harold McCormick, Edith stood at the crossroads of two powerful families. But due to her unconventional beliefs, she was cast aside by both. Andrea Friederici Ross, author of *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick*, details the philanthropist’s accomplishments (Brookfield Zoo, opera, real estate) and family scandals. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Mary Alessio, Women’s Athletic Club, mary@wacchicago.com; Carmen Guerrero, St. James Farm, cguerrero@dupageforest.org

**Website:** www.friedericicross.org

**Contact:** friedericross@gmail.com, (630) 712-0283

### **“Chicago’s Latine Arts and Music Scenes: Trailblazing in the Midwest” by Catalina Maria Johnson**

Catalina Maria Johnson, music journalist and host of the radio show and podcast “Beat Latino,” shares Chicagoland’s Latine arts, music,

poetry, and literature scene – one of the most fertile and seminal arts scenes, highly lauded and recognized in international forums. This presentation includes video and music examples and is regularly updated to reflect current ongoing events. Get to know *nuestras artes* and *nuestra historia* in this area with deep, insider’s knowledge. Program can be presented in English or Spanish. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$350 plus travel expenses)

**References:** Colleen Springer-Lopez, Carbondale Elementary School District, cspringer@ces95.org; Micaela Harris, McLean County Museum of History, mharris@mchistory.org

**Website:** www.linktr.ee/catalinamariajohnson

**Contact:** catalinamariajohnson@gmail.com, (773) 960-8531

### **“Bears vs. Cardinals: The NFL’s Oldest Rivalry” by Joe Ziemba**

Celebrate the humorous early history of the National Football League with author Joe Ziemba, who offers an unusual program on the “forgotten” early history of the oldest teams in the NFL: the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cardinals. These two are the only original clubs from the 1920 inception of the NFL and their histories provide a multitude of entertaining stories to ensure a memorable evening for football and Chicago history fans! Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Gregory Storms, Chicago History Museum, (312) 642-4600, storms@chicagohistory.org; Wendy Babjak, Tinley Park Public Library, 708-845-5719, WBajak@tlibrary.org

**Contact:** joeziemba22@gmail.com, (815) 953-1270

### **“When the Monsters of the Midway Ruled the NFL” by Joe Ziemba**

Join author Joe Ziemba for an entertaining look at the wacky early days of the Chicago Bears, moving from the team’s inception as the Decatur Staleys to its dominance of the National Football League, including four NFL titles from 1940-1946. Relive the rowdy, formative years through audience interaction, rare archival photos, and surprising insight into local historical figures such as Red Grange, George Halas,

and Al Capone. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Gregory Storms, Chicago History Museum, (312) 642-4600, storms@chicagohistory.org; Wendy Babjak, Tinley Park Public Library, 708-845-5719, WBajak@tlibrary.org

**Contact:** joeziemba22@gmail.com, (815) 953-1270

**NEW!** “The Union Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas” by

**Robert I. Girardi**

Camp Douglas, on the South Side of Chicago, was Illinois’ largest military training camp. More than 40,000 volunteers mustered here. In February 1862, the camp was converted to accommodate Confederate Prisoners of War. About 24,000 Confederates were held there during the war – and 6,000 died. While that tale is well-told, lesser known is the story of the thousands of Union POWs who were held in the camp while awaiting parole. This is their troublesome story. (All ages; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Doug Dammann, Kenosha Civil War Museum, (262) 748-7952, ddamann@kenosha.org; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** www.robertgirardi.com

**Contact:** (773) 319-3508, CvlWarGuy@aol.com

**NEW!** “When The Bears Were *Really* Good: The 1963 Chicago Bears” by Charles N. Billington

Sports historian Charles N. Billington discusses his new book *The 1963 Bears: George Halas & the Road to the NFL Championship*. Billington provides an in-depth analysis of this fantastic pre-Super Bowl team and delves into the economic, legal, and social aspects an aging George Halas faced at this critical juncture in the NFL’s history. (Age 11 and up; 90 min; \$175 negotiable with permissions to sell books)

**References:** Donna McCarthy, Elk Grove Library, (847) 724-2154

**Contact:** (773) 351-5871, cnb1148@sbcglobal.net

**NEW!** “When The White Sox Were *Really* Good: The 1959 “Go-Go” Sox by Charles N. Billington

Sports historian Charles N. Billington discusses his critically acclaimed book *Comiskey Park’s Last World Series*. Billington examines the team from an economic, legal, and social perspective as well as analyzing the team’s on-field activities. The bitter family feuding and conflicts between new and old ownership are also explained, which, unfortunately, relates to the team’s current problems. (Age 11 and up; 90 min; \$175 negotiable with permission to sell books)

**References:** Penny Blubaugh, Eisenhower Public Library, (708) 867-2299

**Contact:** (773) 351-5871, cnb1148@sbcglobal.net

**NEW!** “The Chicago Cubs: Is This the Year?” by Charles N. Billington

Sports historian Charles N. Billington, author of *Wrigley Field’s Last World Series*, discusses all things Cubs – past and present – from both an on-field and off-field perspective. Theories on team-building, skill development, and management are rapidly changing, and Billington looks at the current Cub characteristics, how they compare to the past, and the mistakes they unfortunately seem to repeat. (Ages 11 and up; 90 min; \$175 negotiable with permission to sell books)

**References:** Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, (847) 253-5532

**Contact:** (773) 351-5871, cnb1148@sbcglobal.net



**Since its founding in 2008, more than 150 members of the Chicago Writers Association Speakers Bureau have presented live and virtual programming at over 250 Chicagoland venues.**

**“Chicago Roller Skating History” by Marcie Hill**

Roll down memory lane with author and Chicago roller skating historian Marcie Hill as she discusses 140-plus years of Chicago roller skating history. Starting with the first rink in the 1880s, she highlights Chicago’s role in the great phenomenon, including: Chicago firsts; classism and racism; and the staying power of the world’s most popular sport and leisure activity. A recollection for some and a history lesson for others. (All ages; 60 min; \$300)

**References:** Randy Richardson, Chicago Writers Association, info@chicagowrites.org; Nicholas Saunders, Chicago Public Library, (312) 747-3270

**Website:** www.marciewrites.com

**Contact:** msmarcie@marciewrites.com, (312) 620-4157

**“Al Capone and the 1933 World’s Fair” by William Hazelgrove**

This one packs them in. Lovers of *Devil in the White City* will love this fast-paced program on Chicago’s second World’s Fair held during the worst year of The Great Depression, where the race to get rid of Al Capone took on new urgency with the fair looming. Sally Rand, the advent of television, Judy Garland, and the Zephyr all debut at this incredible fair. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$250-300)

**References:** Rachel Rezek, Fremont Public Library, (847) 918-3222, rrezek@fremontlibrary.org; Diane Gaudio, McHenry Public Library, (815) 385-0036, dgaudio@mchenrylibrary.org

**Website:** www.williamhazelgrove.com

**Contact:** bhazelgrove@gmail.com, (708) 466-7601

**NEW! “Chicago: Aviation’s Incubator” by Michael Haupt**

Discover Chicago’s long-overlooked role nurturing fledgling flyers into America’s full-blown aviation industry. Aviation historian Michael Haupt, author of *Aviation Chicago Timeline*, reveals the period around WWI when Chicago held the largest airshow, boasted the busiest airport long before Midway, planted the seeds of military aviation, and was the hub for both barnstorming and airmail. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Robert Bitunjac, Chicago Public Library–Clearing Branch, (312) 747-5657, bitunjac@chipublib.org; Robert “Bob” Russo, Midway Historians, connedriver749@gmail.com

**Website:** www.aviation-chicago.com

**Contact:** mhaupt@aviation-chicago.com, (847) 736-5812

**NEW! “Chicago: Shaping the Airline Industry” by Michael Haupt**

Chicago played a critical role in forming the airline industry, not just for the United States but worldwide as well. Aviation historian Michael Haupt, author of *Aviation Chicago Timeline*, explores how Chicago was the hub of the airmail and airlines, not just physically but, more importantly, of the organizations that controlled them. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Jeff Cacy, International Airliner Expo, (206) 330-9167, Pnwjet@gmail.com; Robert “Bob” Russo, Midway Historians, connedriver749@gmail.com

**Website:** www.aviation-chicago.com

**Contact:** mhaupt@aviation-chicago.com, (847) 736-5812

**NEW! “Black Wings: Chicago’s Pioneering African American Aviators” by Michael Haupt**

Long before the Tuskegee Airmen, African Americans in Chicago took flight breaking many barriers that kept them grounded. Aviation historian Michael Haupt, author of *Aviation Chicago Timeline*, introduces pioneering Black aviators Bessie Coleman, Cornelius Coffey, and John C. Robinson (or the Brown Condor) and others who shaped aviation prior to World War II. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Carol Para, Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame, (847) 274-8115, cfifest@icloud.com; Cynthia Clampitt, Chicago Area Mensa, (847) 537-7915

**Website:** www.aviation-chicago.com

**Contact:** mhaupt@aviation-chicago.com, (847) 736-5812

## LIFE & FAMILY

### **“You Say Goodbye and We Say Hello” by Tom and Karen Brenner**

Best-selling authors Tom and Karen Brenner detail how to reach and stay connected to people living with dementia. Their books, *You Say Goodbye and We Say Hello* and *The Montessori Method for Staying Connected to People with Dementia* will be available to purchase.

(Adults; 90 min; \$500 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Jessica Maag, Center for Concern, [jessiemaag110@gmail.com](mailto:jessiemaag110@gmail.com); Jean Morgan, Ohio Living, [jmorgan@ohioliving.org](mailto:jmorgan@ohioliving.org), (614) 888-7800

**Contact:** [tandkbrenner@gmail.com](mailto:tandkbrenner@gmail.com), (773) 318-4691

### **NEW!** “Getting Wiser: 101 Essential Life Lessons and Inspiring Stories” by Michael S. Lewis, M.D.

If you could spend an evening with one person, who would it be? What about 101 individuals with extraordinary life experiences? For his latest book, former Chicago Bulls orthopedic consultant Michael S. Lewis, M.D. asked 101 remarkable people he’s met about the one life lesson they’d pass on to the next generation. Hear highlights during this lively lecture and Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$100, proceeds donated to charity, with permission to sell books)

**References:** Jill Becker, North Shore Senior Center, (847) 784-6030, [jbecker@nssc.org](mailto:jbecker@nssc.org); Elaine Scott, Chapelwood United Methodist Church, (832) 245-5366, [scottent@aol.com](mailto:scottent@aol.com)

**Website:** [www.michaelslewismd.com](http://www.michaelslewismd.com)

**Contact:** [mlewis2642@aol.com](mailto:mlewis2642@aol.com), (847) 338-1612

### **NEW!** “Navigating Elder Care with Grace and Humor” by Dr. Vicki Atkinson

Join the author of *Surviving Sue* to learn how to navigate the challenges of elder care. Dr. Atkinson’s experience in caring for her mother who suffered from Alzheimer’s, alcoholism, and anxiety taught her lessons about forging ahead with humor. Dr. Atkinson shares tips

for caregiver wellness. Includes handouts, resources, and Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Rick Kaempfer, Eckhartz Press, (847) 508-8867, [rick@eckhartzpress.com](mailto:rick@eckhartzpress.com); David Stern, Eckhartz Press, (773) 507-8907, [davemich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davemich@sbcglobal.net)

**Website:** [www.atkinsongroupsolutions.com](http://www.atkinsongroupsolutions.com), [www.victoriaponders.com](http://www.victoriaponders.com)

**Contact:** Dr. Vicki Atkinson, (847) 927-2385, [vatkinson815@gmail.com](mailto:vatkinson815@gmail.com)

### **“An American Version of Swedish Death Cleaning” by Jeanne Roppolo**

“A loved one wishes to inherit nice things from you; not all things.” Give your family the gift of a clean, organized, and simple life. Join in the discussion as we learn how to downsize in memorable and joyful ways. Learn about fun projects that can be started at any age. Why wait? Begin today. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, (847) 253-5532 x305, [sadelpia@vah.com](mailto:sadelpia@vah.com); Dina Sweet, DeKalb CUSD 428, (815) 757-8536, [dina.sweet@d428.org](mailto:dina.sweet@d428.org)

**Website:** [www.grandmagoesto.com](http://www.grandmagoesto.com)

**Contact:** (808) 987-4473, [jeanneroppolo@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneroppolo@yahoo.com)

### **“101 Telephone Talks & Games” by Jeanne Roppolo**

Presenter Jeanne Roppolo, author of the *Grandma Goes to...* book series, engages, entertains, and enlightens audiences with her Telephone Topic Talks. Simply call a toll-free number and listen to or participate in a wide range of interesting discussions and games. Great conversation starters. (Adults; 60 min; \$50)

**References:** Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, (847) 253-5532 x305, [sadelpia@vah.com](mailto:sadelpia@vah.com); Dina Sweet, DeKalb CUSD 428, (815) 757-8536, [dina.sweet@d428.org](mailto:dina.sweet@d428.org)

**Website:** [www.grandmagoesto.com](http://www.grandmagoesto.com)

**Contact:** (808) 987-4473, [jeanneroppolo@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneroppolo@yahoo.com)

### **“Making Your Ancestor Quest A Success” by Grace DuMelle**

If you're feeling frustrated in your family history progress, come discover pitfalls to avoid and techniques to try. See what Mr. Spock and Marshal Dillon have to teach you. Grace DuMelle, author of *Finding Your Chicago Ancestors* and head of Heartland Historical Research Service, shares insights gained through years of helping clients and library patrons find what they seek. Includes Q&A.

(Adults; 60 min; \$195).

**References:** Paula Robinson, Edgewater Genealogy Group, moviemaven1118@gmail.com, (630) 715-2961 (text)

**Website:** www.hhrs1872.wordpress.com

**Contact:** hhrs1872@ameritech.net, (312) 842-8933

## **CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **NEW! “Personal Branding in the Digital Era” by Sierra Kay**

Expanding your social media presence starts with the “you” that’s presented to the world. Engage in a transformative journey to build a brand that represents your voice, values, and passions to set you up for success. Kay blends her professional expertise as a business consultant/project manager and her master’s degree in writing to motivate Fortune 500 companies and other audiences to exceed their goals. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Florenza Lee, Words to Ponder Publishing Company, contact@florencia.org; Kirsten Bedway, Bedrock Digital, kbedway@gmail.com

**Website:** www.sierrakay.com

**Contact:** info@vegaunleashed.com, (312) 600-8061

## **MIND & BODY**

### **“I Can’t Be a Runner ... Or Can I?” by Danny Smith**

Go from the couch to the 5k finish line. *Running Insight* senior writer Danny Smith shows you how. Informative and inspirational, Smith presents a detailed and proven 10-week program blending walking and running. Leave with a plan and the necessary knowledge to take charge of your health.

Partner with the local park district or race organizer for added reach and impact. Includes handout, Q&A. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$175-200)

**References:** Cindy Kline, Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760 x230, cindyk@ippl.info; Jeannine Kacmar, Palos Heights Public Library, j9kacmar@gmail.com

**Contact:** turnleftcreative@gmail.com, (708) 717-6126

### **“Soar with the Eagles” by Anna Marie Kukec Tomczyk**

Learn how literacy dramatically changes lives, including the stories of five immigrant women and the religious sister who founded the Aurora-based Dominican Literacy Center. Journalist Anna Marie Kukec Tomczyk, author of *We Are Eagles*, shows how they succeeded and are among 2,500 people from 30 countries who attended the center. Topics include literacy, domestic violence, poverty, faith, and determination. Includes handouts. (Adults and Teens; 45 min; No fee with permission to sell books)

**References:** Sarah Vetter, Gail Borden Public Library, (847) 429-6792, svetter@gailborden.info; Julianne F. Keaty, Evergreen Park Public Library, (708) 422-8522, keatyj@evergreenparklibrary.org

**Website:** www.amkukectomczyk.com

**Contact:** antomczyk@comcast.net, (708) 710-7372

### **“Health Claims – ‘Whoppers’ or Science-based Health Claims?” by Joan Davis**

Whether it’s sensationalist headlines, self-styled “experts,” or uninformed professionals who haven’t kept up with the research, there’s a bewildering array of misinformation out there. Your health depends on knowing the truth. Nutrition expert Joan Davis, RN, MS, will provide tips and practice so you can feel more confident evaluating popular claims, recognizing and using research-backed

databases, and avoiding misleading red flags. Includes Q&A, handouts, and follow-up references. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 negotiable)  
**References:** Susan Navabi, Alsip-Merrionette Library, (708) 371-5666 x104, snavabi@alsiplibrary.info; Dee McConnell, Harper College Lifelong Learning Institute, Dmconne@harpercollege.edu, (847) 925-6875

**Website:** www.plantbasedjoan.com

**Contact:** joanlarryd@gmail.com, (847) 802-4090

**“Hooked by Big Food Giants and How We Can Free Ourselves”  
by Joan Davis**

Big Food has hooked us into increasing reliance on convenient ultra-processed foods, even as we learn more about the health risks associated with these pseudo-foods. In an entertaining role play, both a chemist and a marketer from a mock Big Food company reveal their secrets. Learn how our American diet is now 70 percent highly processed foods – and what specific steps you can take to avoid becoming hooked and to feel confident making healthier choices.

Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 negotiable)

**References:** Susan Navabi, Alsip-Merrionette Library, (708) 371-5666 x104, snavabi@alsiplibrary.info; Dee McConnell, Harper College Lifelong Learning Institute, dmconne@harpercollege.edu, (847) 925-6875

**Website:** www.plantbasedjoan.com

**Contact:** joanlarryd@gmail.com, (847) 802-4090

**“Entering the Blue Zones: How to Increase Your Chances of  
Living Vibrantly into Your 90s and Beyond” by Joan Davis**

Grab your suitcase and detective hat to travel with registered nurse Joan Davis to the Blue Zones, coming back with secrets to living longer with better health. Follow in the footsteps of *National Geographic* adventurer Dan Buettner, best-selling author of *The Blue Zone: Lessons for Living Longer*. This fast-paced interactive program will provide tips so you can successfully incorporate Blue Zone strategies into your own life. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 negotiable)

**References:** Susan Navabi, Alsip-Merrionette Library, (708) 371-5666 x104, snavabi@alsiplibrary.info; Dee McConnell, Harper College Lifelong Learning Institute, Dmconne@harpercollege.edu, (847) 925-6875

**Website:** www.plantbasedjoan.com

**Contact:** joanlarryd@gmail.com, (847) 802-4090

**NEW!** **“Fresh and Fair at 40” by Dr. Radhika Vijay**

Know the wonderful ways and suggestions from learnings and experiences of Dr. Radhika Vijay, author of the *Eat Right N Wise* nutrition and health series and a thorough believer of nurturing mind and body in combination in every mood, situation, and altitude in life. Discover some great daily tips and practices in the context of mental and physical health, self growth, satisfaction, and happiness. Includes downloadable pdfs. Virtual only. (Adults; 60 min; \$60)

**Website:** www.drradhikavijay.com

**Contact:** drradhikavj@gmail.com, (+91) 894-993-9280

**POP CULTURE & CURRENT EVENTS**

**“American Diamond: Baseball, Pop Culture, and Our National  
Myths” by James Finn Garner**

Baseball is the National Pastime – on the field and in entertainment. No other sport has inspired so much literature, poetry, film, music, and performance. In this rollicking, humorous presentation, Garner explores the historic and literary reasons driving this phenomenon and how the Internet continues the tradition today. Garner, best known for his *New York Times* best-seller *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories*, also runs the fan-driven poetry/doggerel website, Bardball.com. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Ray Thomas, Del Webb Sun City, ray.thomas@SCCAH.org; Kathleen Swan, Harper College, kswan@harpercolledge.edu

**Website:** www.jamesfinngarner.com, www.bardball.com

**Contact:** (773) 878-7450, velda@jamesfinngarner.com

**“Latino Hip Hop as a New Poetry” by Catalina Maria Johnson**

Catalina Maria Johnson, music journalist and host of the radio show and podcast “Beat Latino,” shares how the musical works of Latino hip hop artists can be viewed as a unique form of new poetry appreciated and understood from Mexico to Chile to Spain. This lively, interactive presentation, which can be presented in English or Spanish, includes video examples and great music. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$350 plus travel expenses)

**References:** Colleen Springer-Lopez, Carbondale Elementary School District, [cspringer@ces95.org](mailto:cspringer@ces95.org); Micaela Harris, McLean County Museum of History, [mharris@mchistory.org](mailto:mharris@mchistory.org)

**Website:** [www.linktr.ee/catalinamariajohnson](http://www.linktr.ee/catalinamariajohnson)

**Contact:** [catalinamariajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:catalinamariajohnson@gmail.com), (773) 960-8531

**“Evolution of the Modern Zombie” by Scott Kenemore**

Join Scott Kenemore – best-selling author of *Zombie-in-Chief: Eater of the Free World* and *Zombie Illinois* – on a rollicking tour of the zombie’s origins in Haitian mysticism through its evolutions in pop culture to the ravenous zombies of today. Fun (and appropriate) for all ages! Kenemore has previously presented at numerous colleges and universities and at top fan conventions like San Diego Comic Con and Chicago Comic Con. (All Ages; 60 min; \$250)

**References:** Brendan Riley, Columbia College, [briley@curragh-labs.org](mailto:briley@curragh-labs.org), (312) 369-8817

**Website:** [www.scottkenemore.com](http://www.scottkenemore.com)

**Contact:** [scottkenemore@hotmail.com](mailto:scottkenemore@hotmail.com), (773) 799-7127

**“The James Bond Phenomenon” by Raymond Benson**

Everything you want to know about James Bond 007, straight from Raymond Benson, the third official continuation author – and first American – commissioned by the Ian Fleming Estate to write original Bond novels (between 1996-2002). Slideshow presentation covers the life of Ian Fleming, history of the novels and the films, and Benson’s own experience as a Bond author. (Teens and Adults; 90 min; \$300 in-person plus travel expenses, \$250 virtual)

**References:** Hanley Kanar, Love is Murder Writers Conference, [hanleykanar@gmail.com](mailto:hanleykanar@gmail.com), (847) 337-0603; Dann Gire, Daily Herald, [danngire@gmail.com](mailto:danngire@gmail.com), (847) 650-4229

**Website:** [www.raymondbenson.com](http://www.raymondbenson.com)

**Contact:** [RBinPerson@comcast.net](mailto:RBinPerson@comcast.net), (847) 217-0389

**“Artificial Intelligence Promise & Peril” by Lance Erlick**

Worried about automation? Bill Gates and leading scientific names have expressed concern about the risks posed by AI. As author of the *Android Chronicles* trilogy, Lance Erlick has researched, written, and presented about AI. Come join a discussion of the promise of AI, myths, threats, and what we should know about changes to our world. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$180 plus travel beyond 10 miles with permission to sell books)

**References:** Terri Campbell, Prospect Heights Library, [tcampbell@phpl.info](mailto:tcampbell@phpl.info); Cynthia Clampitt, MENSA, [caclampitt@att.net](mailto:caclampitt@att.net)

**Website:** [www.LanceErlick.com](http://www.LanceErlick.com)

**Contact:** [finlee7@aol.com](mailto:finlee7@aol.com), (630) 946-6023

**“From Miniskirt to Hijab: Death to America, Death to Israel, and the Morality Police” by Jacqueline Saper**

Jacqueline Saper’s award-winning memoir *From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran* artfully illuminates her life as a Jewish woman in the Islamic Republic of Iran, where the political landscape was (and still is) dominated by a relentless campaign to annihilate the State of Israel. Saper’s firsthand experiences will contribute to our understanding of how extremist ideologies seized a Westernized affluent country and transformed it into a radicalized society. (Teens and Adults; 60-90 min; \$500 plus travel expenses)

**References:** Jessica Emami, American University, (202) 885-5950, [jemami@american.edu](mailto:jemami@american.edu); Mateo Farzaneh, Northeastern Illinois University, (773) 442-5821, [m-farzaneh@neiu.edu](mailto:m-farzaneh@neiu.edu)

**Website:** [www.jacquelinesaper.com](http://www.jacquelinesaper.com)

**Contact:** [jacqueline.saper@gmail.com](mailto:jacqueline.saper@gmail.com), (312) 493-8161

**NEW!** “How ‘Respect, Empower, Include’ Won” by Mary Lang Sollinger

Walk in the steps of thousands of volunteers who were positively inspired to keep democracy alive in a past presidential election. Listen as Mary Lang Sollinger, author of the award-winning *From Inspiration to Activism*, shares the behind-the-scenes story of how ordinary citizens respectfully and successfully united people of political differences. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Carol Koby, All About Living radio show, (608) 345-5071, ckoby@chorus.net; Katherine Cramer, University of Wisconsin, (608) 347-8528, kathy.cramer@wisc.edu

**Website:** www.mlsollinger.com

**Contact:** sollingerml@gmail.com, (608) 212-6889

## HISTORY

**“The Journey of Mollie’s War: WACs and WWII” by Cyndee Schaffer**

Cyndee Schaffer discusses women in the military during WWII by taking you on a journey from inspiration to publication. Using excerpts from Mollie’s letters written home, Schaffer provides a romantic yet frightful glimpse into the life of a woman in uniform during this crucial time in history. She traces the footsteps of her mother and her fellow WACs who followed the soldiers stationed in Europe from London to Normandy to Paris to Versailles and finally to Frankfurt. Presentation includes WAC recruiting movie, slideshow, photos, letters, medals, and memorabilia. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$250-\$350 negotiable with permission to sell books)

**References:** Mary Klostermann, Lake Carroll Women’s Club, maryklostermann@comcast.net; Mary Jo Lepo, Arlington Heights Library, mlepo@ahml.info

**Website:** www.mollieswar.com

**Contact:** cyndeeschaffer@gmail.com, (847) 917-4125

**“How Corn Changed Itself and then Changed Everything Else” by Cynthia Clampitt**

About 10,000 years ago, a weedy grass in Mexico transformed itself into corn – and then transformed the Americas, even before First Contact. After First Contact, it spanned the globe and drove westward expansion in North America, building cities and inspiring innovators and entrepreneurs. Vampires, Henry Ford, time zones, Fritos, and the Chicago Bears are all part of this remarkable story. (All ages; 60 min; \$165 plus travel with permission to sell books)

**References:** Kay Ripplemeyer-Tippy, Jackson County Historical Society, kayrip@siu.edu; Judy Bock, Geographic Society of Chicago, judyil@aol.com, (847) 223-7627

**Website:** www.worldplate.com

**Contact:** caclampitt@att.net, (847) 537-7915

**“The Rule of Rum” by Cynthia Clampitt**

Even if you don’t drink rum, this is worthwhile history. Learn when rum arose; where and how pirates got involved; how rum helped unite the 13 Colonies; and rum’s contributing role to the American Revolution. From the Caribbean across the British Empire, from taxes to military rum rations, come discover how rum once ruled the world. (All ages; 60 min; \$165 plus travel)

**References:** Judy Bock, Geographic Society of Chicago, judyil@aol.com, (847) 223-7627; Vicky Edwards, Chicago-area Mensa, AChicVic@aol.com, (630) 629-8385

**Website:** www.worldplate.com

**Contact:** caclampitt@att.net, (847) 537-7915

**“Gypsy Music Street: Antisemitism, Genocide, and a Daughter’s Journey to her Mother’s Shattered World” by Roberta Dietzen**

Author Roberta Dietzen shares her story about irrevocable loss and the traumatic ramifications of the Holocaust that continue to resonate from one generation to the next. She describes the rich Jewish culture of pre-war Eastern Europe and her memorable roots trip to Budapest and Ukraine. With the alarming rise of antisemitism, Dietzen stresses the

importance of bringing awareness to the phenomenon of genocide. (Teens and Adults; 60-90 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Peter Evans, Geneva Public Library, (630) 220-3689, Pje319@gmail.com; Richard Reeder, Chicago Jewish Author's Literary Series, richardreeder34@gmail.com, (847) 542-4624

**Contact:** rldietzen@comcast.net, (847) 204-7608

### **“History You Didn’t Learn in School” by Donna Urbikas**

World War II and eastern Europe provide challenges as the history of that region leading up to and following WWII is complicated. Based on the author's award-winning memoir, *My Sister's Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin's Siberia*, learn what is rarely presented in history classes and how regional and nationalistic ideologies influence current political events in eastern Europe, specifically in

Poland. Includes original reference materials and handouts. (Older Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Cindy Kline, Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760 x230, cindyk@ippl.info; Jim Dalbec, Ela Township Community Center, (847) 438-9160, jimd@elatownship.org

**Website:** www.danutaurbikas.com

**Contact:** donna@danutaurbikas.com, (312) 343-5454

### **“Music as a Cultural History: Latines in the USA and Illinois” by Catalina Maria Johnson**

Catalina Maria Johnson, music journalist and host of the radio show and podcast “Beat Latino,” shares how music can be “read” and also share the cultural values, roots, and history of peoples. Survey the music and milestones from the last 150 years of Latin America-U.S. relations to understand history in a new way. Available in English or Spanish, this lively program includes video examples and great music. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$350 plus travel expenses)

**References:** Colleen Springer-Lopez, Carbondale Elementary School District, cspringer@ces95.org; Micaela Harris, McLean County Museum of History, mharris@mchistory.org

**Website:** www.linktr.ee/catalinamariajohnson

**Contact:** catalinamariajohnson@gmail.com, (773) 960-8531

### **NEW! “Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier” by Robert I. Girardi**

Award-winning author and historian Robert I. Girardi presents the special relationship President Abraham Lincoln shared with the Union soldiers in the Civil War. Lincoln spent every single day of his presidency surrounded by soldiers. He interacted with them and mutual trust and devotion grew between them. Soldiers came to regard the president as Father Abraham. Girardi details how and why this occurred. (All ages; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Doug Dammann, Kenosha Civil War Museum, (262) 748-7952, ddammann@kenosha.org; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** www.robertgirardi.com

**Contact:** (773) 319-3508, CvlWarGuy@aol.com

### **“The Murder of Major General William Nelson” by Robert I. Girardi**

Award-winning historian and author Robert I. Girardi presents a fascinating Civil War murder case. On September 29, 1862, in the lobby of Louisville's Galt House Hotel, Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis murdered Major General William Nelson. Davis was arrested but never brought to trial. A combination of political intrigue, cronyism, and military emergency brought this about. Girardi discusses the case from his perspective as a Chicago homicide detective. (All ages; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Doug Dammann, Kenosha Civil War Museum, (262) 748-7952, ddammann@kenosha.org; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** www.robertgirardi.com

**Contact:** (773) 319-3508, CvlWarGuy@aol.com

**“Women Spies in World War II: The Women of the SOE” by Kit Sergeant**

In 1942, as the free world crumbled beneath Hitler’s jackboot, Winston Churchill’s Secret Army began recruiting women spies to infiltrate Occupied France and become part of the French Resistance. Learn about the adventures of some of the SOE’s unimaginably brave women in this multimedia presentation with Q&A by Kit Sergeant, author of *The Spark of Resistance*. Giveaways include stickers and bookmarks. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Ashley Sander, Homewood Public Library, (708) 798-0121, ashleys@homewoodlibrary.org

**Website:** www.kitsergeant.com

**Contact:** kitsergeant@gmail.com, (847) 254-0154

**“The Codebreaker and the POW: A Family Saga of WWII” by L. Sue Baugh**

In 1942, one of the darkest years of World War II, Baugh’s father, Lt. Charles Baugh, became a Navy codebreaker. That same year, her grandfather, Richmond Baugh, was taken prisoner on Corregidor Island in the Philippines and spent 2.5 years in a Japanese POW camp. In this gripping family saga, Baugh recounts the heroic work of military and civilian codebreakers and the brutal battle to liberate the Philippines. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150)

**References:** Rich Steele, SAM Group, (847) 421-9481, richsteele45@comcast.net; Christine Fountain, Monarch Landing, (630) 300-1246, CFountain@monarchlanding.net

**Contact:** sue.baughws@gmail.com, (847) 902-4973

**NEW! “Women Spies in World War II Part 2: Nancy Wake and Marie-Madeleine Fourcade” by Kit Sergeant**

Faced with unimaginable odds, Nancy Wake, aka “The White Mouse,” and Marie-Madeleine Fourcade guided hundreds of French Resistance agents through the treacherous landscape of wartime France while managing to (mostly) avoid the Gestapo. Learn about the adventures

of these unimaginably brave women in this multimedia presentation with Q&A by Kit Sergeant, author of *Marie-Madeleine*. Giveaways include stickers and bookmarks. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Ashley Sander, Homewood Public Library, (708) 798-0121, ashleys@homewoodlibrary.org

**Website:** www.kitsergeant.com

**Contact:** kitsergeant@gmail.com, (847) 254-0154

**“U.S. – Dakota War of 1862: A Forgotten Conflict” by L. Sue Baugh**

In August 1862, a smoldering dispute between the U.S. government and the Dakota Sioux in Minnesota finally erupted into war. The fierce battles that followed forced President Lincoln to pull Minnesota troops from the Civil War to quell the fighting. Award-winning speaker L. Sue Baugh explains how this forgotten conflict led to the largest mass execution in U.S. history and left a bitter legacy on both sides. A timely story given recent Native American events. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150)

**References:** Judy Eckberg, Nineteenth Century Club, (708) 386-2729, judylowe@sbcglobal.net; Jamie Gehin, Deerfield Public Library, (847) 945-3311, jgehin@deerfieldlibrary.org

**Contact:** sue.baughws@gmail.com, (847) 902-4973



*The Chicago Writers Association is a creative community of Chicagoland writers established in 2003 and federally registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 2008.*

**Learn more at [www.chicagowrites.org](http://www.chicagowrites.org)**

## TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

### **“Travelogues” by Jeanne Roppolo**

Audiences participate in non-traditional journeys with author, storyteller, and motivational speaker Jeanne Roppolo. Through her personal photos and videos, meet fascinating people and explore other cultures in destinations around the globe. Be inspired and take advantage of this unique learning resource. All true stories. (All ages; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, (847) 253-5532 x305, sadelpia@vah.com; Dina Sweet, DeKalb CUSD 428, (815) 757-8536, dina.sweet@d428.org

**Website:** www.grandmagoesto.com

**Contact:** (808) 987-4473, jeanneroppolo@yahoo.com

### **“Destination: Heartland History” by Cynthia Clampitt**

The history of the Midwest is remarkable and often surprising. This region, famed for supplying food, actually supplied so much more, including iconic images, legendary individuals, and inventions that would change the world. From prehistory to present, hear tales and “visit” museums, living-history venues, archaeological digs, historic towns, vintage farms, and more that make the Midwest’s past accessible – and fun. (All ages; 60 min; \$165 plus travel with permission to sell books)

**References:** Monique Flasch, Glenview Public Library, mflasch@glenviewpl.org, (847) 729-7500 x2617; Judy Bock, Geographic Society of Chicago, judyil@aol.com, (847) 223-7627

**Website:** www.worldplate.com

**Contact:** caclampitt@att.net, (847) 537-7915

### **“Echoes of Earth: Finding Ourselves in the Origins of the Planet”**

**by L. Sue Baugh**

Journey with award-winning author Sue Baugh and her colleague Lynn Martinelli, who traveled 54,000 miles by camper car, fishing boat, floatplane, and river raft to capture the power and beauty of the world’s oldest rock and mineral sites. Explore the startling, profound

connection between ourselves and our planet, and experience breathtaking images from Australia, Greenland, Northwest Canada, and the Grand Canyon. Includes Q&A, free “Timelines of Earth” posters. (All ages; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Cyndee Schaffer, American Association of University Women, (847) 917-4125, dcmaj5@aol.com; Aubri Kinahan, Round Lake Public Library, (847) 546-7060 x143, kinahan@rlalibrary.org

**Website:** www.wildstonearts.com

**Contact:** sue.baughws@gmail.com, (847) 902-4973

### **NEW! “One World: Peak Photographic Travel Experiences to All Seven Continents” by Michael S. Lewis, M.D.**

Join Michael S. Lewis, M.D. for a photographic journey through all seven continents. His award-winning images of people, animals, and landscapes captured during his travels have been shown in numerous galleries and exhibitions as well as published in books and magazines. Lewis will share a selection of these photos and discuss his peak experiences that demonstrate how we are all connected. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$100, proceeds donated to charity, with permission to sell books)

**References:** Jill Becker, North Shore Senior Center, (847) 784-6030, jbecker@nssc.org; Elaine Scott, Chapelwood United Methodist Church, (832) 245-5366, scottent@aol.com

**Website:** www.michaelslewismd.com

**Contact:** mlewis2642@aol.com, (847) 338-1612

## WRITING, RESEARCH, AND LITERATURE

### **NEW! “Writing for Resilience” by Dr. Vicki Atkinson and Wynne Leon**

Learn how unlocking your storyteller’s soul can build resiliency and reinvigorate your writing practice. Personal narratives are proven pathways for both interpersonal and intrapersonal growth. Authors Atkinson and Leon share their top 10 tried-and-true techniques for pushing past life’s obstacles to lay a foundation for self-understanding.

Includes handouts, resources, and Q&A. Virtual only. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Rick Kaempfer, Eckhartz Press, (847) 508-8867, rick@eckhartzpress.com; David Stern, Eckhartz Press, (773) 507-8907, davemich@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** www.sharingtheheartofthematter.com

**Contact:** Dr. Vicki Atkinson, vatkinson815@gmail.com, (847) 927-2385; Wynne Leon, (206) 601-1518, wynne@avitiva.com

**NEW!** “Creating a Profitable Author Life You Love” by Sharon Woodhouse

Former indie book publisher and current author coach, publishing consultant, and owner of the Conspire Creative agency, Sharon Woodhouse walks participants through the seven pillars of creating a sustainable, income-generating author life they love. Woodhouse outlines eight ways authors can customize their sales and marketing approaches and shows how any author – traditionally, hybrid, or self-published – can take an entrepreneurial approach to reaching their goals. Includes resource list, Q&A. (Adults; 60-120 min; \$300-\$500)

**References:** Jeanne Bowerman, Symposium/Pipeline Artists, jeanne@pipelineartists.com

**Website:** www.conspirecreative.com

**Contact:** sharon@conspirecreative.com, (773) 562-5499

**NEW!** “Self-publishing: Doing It by the Book” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

Compulsively readable thriller author Libby Fischer Hellmann explains her move to self-publishing and how to do it right. Workshop includes the differences, benefits, drawbacks, and costs of doing it yourself versus traditional publishing. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Deb Hoffman, Gurnee Library, dhoffman@wnpl.info; Monique Flasch, Glenview Library, mflasch@glenviewpl.org

**Website:** www.libbyhellmann.com

**Contact:** (847) 441-9194, authorlfh@comcast.net

**NEW!** “Building Suspense” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

No matter what genre you write, suspense is critical to the craft of fiction. Chicago-based award-winning crime author Libby Fischer Hellmann explains how to build suspense into your writing. Each workshop includes in-class exercises and take-home materials.

(Adults; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Deb Hoffman, Gurnee Library, dhoffman@wnpl.info; Monique Flasch, Glenview Library, mflasch@glenviewpl.org

**Website:** www.libbyhellmann.com

**Contact:** (847) 441-9194, authorlfh@comcast.net

**NEW!** “Finishing Your Debut Novel” by Sierra Kay

Unlock the secrets to completing your debut novel. Learn about novel writing, including planning, outlining, and setting goals. Move your novel from ideation to complete. Kay blends her professional expertise as a business consultant/project manager and her master’s degree in writing to motivate Fortune 500 companies and other audiences to exceed their goals. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Florenza Lee, Words to Ponder Publishing Company, contact@florenza.org; Kirsten Bedway, Bedrock Digital, kbedway@gmail.com

**Website:** www.sierrakay.com

**Contact:** info@vegaunleashed.com, (312) 600-8061

“Memoir Writing for Seniors” by Donna Urbikas

Award-winning author and teacher Donna Urbikas leads an introductory presentation and workshop on how to start writing from reflection, gathering the gems of wisdom from life, and presenting such in a good memoir. Based on the author’s award-winning memoir, *My Sister’s Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin’s Siberia*, Urbikas addresses issues of how to pick relevant anecdotal stories and expand them into meaningful content, deal with sensitive revelations involving others, handle meaningful revisions, and

more. Includes writing prompts and exercises, a limited review of student work, and handouts. (Older Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$300)

**References:** Cindy Kline, Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760 x230, cindyk@ippl.info; Jim Dalbec, Ela Township Community Center, (847) 438-9160, jimd@elatownship.org

**Website:** www.danutaurbikas.com

**Contact:** donna@danutaurbikas.com, (312) 343-5454

**NEW!** “Write Your Story” by Dr. Patty Johnson

Connect with emotional insights to create a deeply meaningful account of your memories, guided by clinical psychologist and author, Dr. Patty Johnson. Your goal may be to grasp memories with a new understanding, begin an essay, memoir, or create fodder for historical fiction. The goal may be that there is no specific goal, and a path emerges as themes begin to surface. Includes recommendations on carrying the writing practice forward. (Ages 16 and up; \$250 with permission to sell books)

**References:** Jane Hseu, Dominican University, jane.hseu@gmail.com; Rashmi Swain, Oak Park Public Library, (708) 383-8200

**Website:** www.pjtemple.com

**Contact:** pjtemple7@gmail.com, (708) 228-9492