

Hello, Programmers:

Following a pandemic-induced hiatus, the Chicago Writers Association Speakers Bureau returns with its 12th edition, continuing its run as a go-to resource for local venues seeking high-quality, spirited programs. This year's Speakers Bureau menu features:

- 79 original programs from 46 local presenters
- 47 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.

We hope you see the CWA Speakers Bureau menu as a valuable resource in your efforts to bring engaging 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



2023 Program Menu

Compelling Speakers at Your Fingertips.

www.chicagowrites.org

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

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

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

“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

NEW! “The Chicago Cubs: Trending Up?” by Charles N. Billington

Sports historian Charles Billington, author of *Wrigley Field’s Last World Series*, analyzes the on-field and off-field activities of the Cubs, examines the economic history and developments of the organization, and how economic decisions historically contribute to their poor showings on the field. (Teens and Adults; 75 min; \$175 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, sadelpia@vah.com, (847) 253-5532; Nicole Britz, Patty Turner Senior Center, (847) 572-2653

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

NEW! “The Chicago White Sox: All Your Questions Answered” by Charles N. Billington

Sports historian Charles Billington, author of *Comiskey Park’s Last World Series*, presents the history and current issues facing Chicago’s beloved White Sox, America’s last “Neighborhood Team.” The White Sox have a deep but demanding fan base, and Billington examines the economic, on-field, and social developments of this team, and how sometimes – unfortunately – their history has a way of repeating itself. (Teens and Adults; 75 min; \$175 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, sadelpia@vah.com, (847) 253-5532; Nicole Britz, Patty Turner Senior Center, (847) 572-2653

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

NEW! “The Chicago Bears: What Direction Are They Going?” by Charles N. Billington

Sports historian Charles Billington, author of *Chicago’s Neglected Champions: The 1963 Chicago Bears*, discusses Chicago’s consistently inconsistent NFL franchise. Billington looks at their successful first 50 years and the mostly dismal half-century which followed. He explains how management issues through the decades have held them back, their historical reluctance to adapt to change, and the soap-opera saga of their quarterback position. (Teens and Adults; 75 min; \$175 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Sarah Adelpia, Arlington Heights Senior Center, sadelpia@vah.com, (847) 253-5532; Nicole Britz, Patty Turner Senior Center, (847) 572-2653

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

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; \$125 with permission to sell books)

References: Robert Bitunjac, Chicago Public Library–Clearing Branch, (312) 747-5657, bitunjac@chipublib.org; Robert “Bob” Russo, Midway Historians, conniedriver749@gmail.com

Website: www.aviation-chicago.com

Contact: mhaupt@aviation-chicago.com

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; \$125 with permission to sell books)

References: Jeff Cacy, International Airliner Expo, (206) 330-9167, Pnwjet@gmail.com; Robert “Bob” Russo, Midway Historians, conniedriver749@gmail.com

Website: www.aviation-chicago.com

Contact: mhaupt@aviation-chicago.com

NEW! “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.friedericross.org

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

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

This one really 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 make their 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, dgaudio@mchenrylibrary.org, (815) 385-0036

Website: www.williamhazelgrove.com

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

“Shadow over Chicago: Al Capone and the Windy City” by Robert I. Girardi

Al Capone was one of the most notorious gangsters in American history. His career left an indelible taint on the City of Chicago. Retired Chicago Police Detective Robert I. Girardi discusses the career and legacy Capone left on the city. (All ages; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

References: Kathy Hussey, Wilmette Historical Museum, (847) 853-7666, husseyk@wilmette.com; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

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

“Chicago and the Memory of the Civil War” by Robert I. Girardi

The Windy City was a source of men, supplies, and transportation during the Civil War. The conflict made Chicago a major city. The men who fought the war came home to build and rebuild the town and, along the way, they erected museums and monuments. They presided over parades and Memorial Day services until a disinterested public swept them aside. Today, their legacy adorns Chicago’s landscape, but few remember their story. (All ages; 60 min; \$175 with permission to sell books)

References: Kathy Hussey, Wilmette Historical Museum, (847) 853-7666, husseyk@wilmette.com; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

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

NEW! “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

NEW! “The West Side Riots of the Mid ’60s” An Eyewitness Recalls” by Frank Joseph

Frank Joseph covered the riots as an Associated Press reporter. A lifetime later, he’s written an award-winning novel, *To Do Justice*, based on his experiences. Relive a time Chicago held its breath as a great city went up in flames. Joseph brings it back to life through the eyes of Pinkie, a street kid in search of the White woman who gave her birth, and Mollie, the AP reporter who becomes her unlikely guide. (Adults; 60 min; \$150-\$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Maudlyne Ihejirika, *Chicago Sun-Times*, (312) 446-4189; Amin Ahmad, author, (617) 230-0160

Website: www.frankjoseph.com

Contact: frank@frankjoseph.com, (301) 996-0450

LIFE & FAMILY

NEW! “It’s Not Like They’re Family: Grieving and Honoring Our Friends” by Victoria Noe

COVID has challenged all of us to examine our attitudes toward grief. While families receive most of the consideration, the friends left behind also struggle. How do you grieve the loss of your friends, when traditions are

restricted by a worldwide pandemic? Based on Noe’s award-winning *Friend Grief* books, this interactive presentation will celebrate our friendships and share meaningful ways to honor the friends who shaped our lives.

Disclaimer: This is not therapy. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Martie McNabb, Show & Tales, info@showandtales.com

Website: www.victorianoe.com

Contact: victoria@victorianoe.com, (773) 450-0391

“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; Dina Sweet, DeKalb CUSD 428, (815) 757-8536, dina.sweet@d428.org

Website: www.grandmagoesto.com

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

NEW! “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; Dina Sweet, DeKalb CUSD 428, (815) 757-8536, dina.sweet@d428.org

Website: www.grandmagoesto.com

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

NEW! “How to Be a Burden: Using Your Relationships to Treat Depression” by Myron Nelson

Depression is well known but not well understood. Nelson, who specializes in treating depression through psychotherapy and has experienced his own episodes of depression, combines lessons learned from his professional and

personal experiences and will teach you how to talk about your problems and feel less depressed. Virtual presentation only. (Adults; 60 min; \$350)

References: Katie Ho, LCPC, katieholcpc@gmail.com; Stephanie Korpala, LCPC, stephanie@marblewellness.com

Website: www.howtobeaburden.com

Contact: Myron@blacktietherapy.com, (773) 217-8426

NEW! “It Takes a Child to Raise a Parent” by Dr. Janis Clark

Johnston

Many parenting approaches take the growth of a parent for granted. Johnston’s program, based off her book of the same name, offers a problem-solving lens to pursue developmental growth of parents *alongside* the growth of their offspring. As a child experiences growth pains in a particular developmental passage, we often come face to face with our own growth pains. Every child presents parents with new opportunities to learn how to answer the question, *Who am I?* (Adults; 60 min; \$125-200 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Amy Cardin, First United Church Nursery School, acardin@firstunitedoakpark.com; Melanie Weller, Family Therapist, melanie.weller713@gmail.com

Website: www.janisjohnston.com

Contact: jan.jcj@gmail.com, (708) 334-9126

NEW! “Midlife and Loss: Grieving Can Lead to Growing” by Dr. Janis Clark Johnston

Clark Johnston

There is no set amount of time to grieve significant changes brought by loss. While no one wants loss to enter their life during midlife, there is tremendous learning from a grieving process. From a family therapy caseload of middle-aged clients to famous mid-lifers who go public with their loss stories, Johnston’s book *Midlife Maze* turns grieving into a threshold of new beginnings with a growth mindset. Broken dreams can be “fertilizer” for new dreams. (Adults; 60 min; \$125-200 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Louise Corzine, Care Giver, Community Health Care Systems, louiseorzine@gmail.com; Amy Cardin, First United Church Nursery School, acardin@firstunitedoakpark.com

Website: www.janisjohnston.com

Contact: jan.jcj@gmail.com, (708) 334-9126

NEW! “Retirement Identity: Who Am I Now?” by Dr. Janis Clark

Johnston

Are you are planning for your retirement? Perhaps you retired from a career, but don’t feel “retired.” Do you have *bodymind* parts that “retired” years ago? Retirement is about *what you do* with your *bodymind* and *your time*. What you see as your purpose in life becomes your new retirement identity. Results from surveying 125 individuals (ages 55-96) reveal different retirement perspectives. We will explore retirement identity issues alongside bodily challenges to empower your *bodymind*. (Adults; 60 min; \$125-200 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Louise Corzine, Community Health Care Systems, louiseorzine@gmail.com; Melanie Weller, Family Therapist, melanie.weller713@gmail.com

Website: www.janisjohnston.com

Contact: jan.jcj@gmail.com, (708) 334-9126

NEW! “Unlocking Your Happiness and Resilience Connection” by

Molly Cantrell-Kraig

Using a combination of simple mind-body-spirit practices, you can actually raise your Happiness Set-Point®, which benefits all areas of your life, personally and professionally. Learn science-based techniques and actions you can take *right now* to shift your mindset. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books/merchandise)

References: Scott Monty, Scott Monty Strategies, scott@scottmonty.com; Khalilah Lyons, Candidly Connecting, khalilah@iamkhalilahlyons.com

Website: www.mollycantrellkraig.co

Contact: molly@mollycantrellkraig.co, (312) 292-1192

NEW! “You Say Goodbye and We Say Hello: A Positive Program for Dementia Care” by Tom and Karen Brenner

When a person first hears the diagnosis that they or their loved one is diagnosed with dementia, there is understandably a feeling of shock, dismay, and hopelessness. But Tom and Karen Brenner have a new approach in dealing with dementia. Tom, a gerontologist specializing in dementia, and his wife, Karen, a Montessori educator, share their experiences in working directly with people who have dementia and their caregivers for the past 25 years. The Brennens – authors of *You Say Goodbye and We Say Hello: The Montessori Method for Positive Dementia Care* and *The Montessori Method*

for *Staying Connected to People with Dementia* – bring their uplifting and positive approach to dementia care, including techniques and strategies they have field tested as well as insights into how to reach and stay connected to people living with dementia. (Adults; 60 min; \$300)

Contact: (773) 318-7245, Tandkbrenner@gmail.com

NEW! “Historical Fiction that Makes You Think: The Moments

Between Dreams” by Judith F. Brenner

Readers of family life historical fiction find that *The Moments Between Dreams* is a discussion starter at libraries and Rotary clubs about polio and about domestic violence that goes on behind closed doors. Brenner’s novel highlights Chicago’s polio epidemic in the 1940s, women’s rights to divorce in the 1950s, and how women faced gut-wrenching struggles head on and still do. Learn why advocates and polio survivors endorse the novel because of its relevancy today. This talk includes information about local shelters and the recent resurgence of polio virus. (Adults; 60 min; \$350)

References: Nadia Giordana, *It’s a Women’s World*, (763) 222-3113, iinadia@outlook.com; Dean Karayanis, History Author Show, dean@historyauthor.com

Website: www.judithfbrenner.com

Contact: (612) 599-3303, creativelakes@outlook.com

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW! “Networking by Necessity: Succeeding as an Introvert” by

Toneal M. Jackson

Trying to emerge as a leader can sometimes appear overwhelming, intimidating, and even impossible, especially for an introvert. How can you be triumphant when you don’t naturally gravitate towards the social circle? This program teaches those who are shy, reserved, and withdrawn how to be victorious in any environment. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Keesiya Robertson, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, (773) 610-4044, krobertson@ymcachicago.org

Website: www.mynameistoneal.com

Contact: tonealjackson@yahoo.com, (773) 440-2004

“It’s Never Too Late to Make Mid-Course Corrections” by Mary T. Wagner

From soccer mom to supreme court arguments, sneakers to spike heels, and waitressing to award-winning writer, the career path taken by *When the Shoe Fits* and *Finnigan the Circus Cat* author Mary T. Wagner has been varied, but never dull. Combining optimism, practicality, and a healthy dose of humor, Wagner offers hard-won pointers about personal growth, reinvention, and the importance of trusting your instincts. (Adults; 60 min; \$275 with permission to sell books)

References: Kelly Holstine, WordHaven BookHouse, kelly@kellydholstine.com; Elizabeth Welter, Novel Bay Booksellers, read@novelbaybooks.com

Website: www.marytwagner.com

Contact: (262) 573-7161, runwstilettos@yahoo.com

NEW! “Late Bloomers: Having the Courage to Fulfill a Lifetime of Dreams” by Tom and Karen Brenner

Karen Brenner published her first novel, *Appaloosa Sky*, at age 72. Her second novel, *Trinity Rivers Trilogy*, will be published in 2023. Her husband, Tom, completely changed his life in his mid-fifties, enrolling in graduate school to study gerontology and eventually becoming a specialist in dementia. The Brennens will share their own experiences of Third Age life changes and how these bold moves have enriched and enlarged their lives. (Adults; 60 min; \$300)

Contact: (773) 318-7245, Tandkbrenner@gmail.com



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 venues in and far beyond the Chicago area.

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 that blends walking and running. Leave with a plan and the necessary knowledge to take charge of your health. A perfect program to pair with Chicago Marathon headlines, a local race, or New Year’s resolutions. Partner with the local park district or race organizer for added reach and impact. Includes handout. (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

“Spiritual Awakening in America” by Robert Taub

Awakening in America: An Adventure in Awareness author Robert Taub describes the significance of the spiritual awakening now in America and how to use his book and blog postings to achieve it. Taub also demonstrates his intuitive abilities and what it means to be an awakened, more fully functioning human in a group transformational healing session. Taub has presented his work to audiences since 2002 and conducted several thousand workshops and healing sessions. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$300 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books)

References: Claudine Guertin, Client, (773) 485-3418, claudineguertin@yahoo.com; Colleen Flynn, Client, (312) 909-1945, cef623@att.net

Website: www.awakeninginamerica.com

Contact: info@awakeninginamerica.com, (312)-565-0737

NEW! “Spiritual Weight Loss” by Stephanie Rose Bird

Diagnosed with several eating disorders, Bird’s book *Earth Mama’s Spiritual Guide to Weight Loss* takes readers through her continuously evolving journey. Part memoir and part hands-on guide, readers walk away with herbal and aromatherapeutic potions, teas, essential oil blends, decoctions, affirmations, projects, and chants that address the deeper issues around weight. This is a workshop and book reading built around manifesting,

healing, and hope. (Teens and Adults; 90 min; \$300 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books)

References: Camille Wilson White, Oak Park Area Arts Council, (708) 358-5692, camillew2@oakparkareaartscouncil.org; Iya Sobande Greer, Sacred Waters Retreat, (615) 669-4351

Website: www.stephanierosebird.com

Contact: stephanierosebird@gmail.com, (708) 846-0865

NEW! “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% 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, (847) 925-6875, dmconne@harpercollege.edu

Website: www.plantbasedjoan.com

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

NEW! “Facing Fears and Uncertainties One Step at a Time” by Arlene Faulk

Ever felt like you were tiptoeing around on “pins and needles”? Physically or emotionally? Get inspired by author/Tai Chi instructor Arlene Faulk’s path through multiple roadblocks, including a career glass ceiling and devastating chronic health diagnosis. Based on her book *Walking on Pins and Needles: A Memoir of Chronic Resilience in the Face of Multiple Sclerosis*. Gain the motivation you need to lead a healthier, more balanced life. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Deborah W. Holton, DePaul University, (312) 914-4990, deborahwholton@icloud.com; Lucy Forster-Smith, Fourth Presbyterian Church, (651) 402-6986, Lforster-smith@fourthchurch.org

Website: www.arlenefaulk.com

Contact: (312) 642-0722, akf1150@gmail.com

“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, (847) 925-6875, Dmconne@harpercollege.edu

Website: www.plantbasedjoan.com

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

NEW! **“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: amtomczyk@comcast.net, (708) 710-7372

POP CULTURE & CURRENT EVENTS

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

Baseball is the National Pastime, not only on the field, but in all forms of 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 that drive this American 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@harpercollege.edu

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

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

NEW! **“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; Micaela Harris, McLean County Museum of History, mharris@mchistory.org

Website: www.linktr.ee/catalinamariajohnson

Contact: 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, (312) 369-8817

Website: www.scottkenemore.com

Contact: scottkenemore@hotmail.com, (773) 799-7127

“From Miniskirt to Hijab, Iran’s Protests, and the Morality Police” by Jacqueline Saper

Jacqueline Saper is the author of *From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran* and winner of the Chicago Writers Association 2020 Book of the Year Award. Using slides and real-life experiences, Saper explains how her life changed as a Jewish girl in the Islamic Republic. She also discusses the worldwide interest in Iran’s morality police and existing protests. (Teens and Adults; 60-90 min; \$500 with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.jacquelinesaper.com

Contact: jacqueline.saper@gmail.com, (312) 493-8161

“Artificial Intelligence Promise & Peril” by Lance Erlick

Worried about automation? Bill Gates and other 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. Includes handouts. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$150 plus travel expenses beyond 10 miles with permission to sell books)

References: Terri Campbell, Prospect Heights Library, tcampbell@phpl.info; Cynthia Clampitt, MENSA, caclampitt@att.net

Website: www.LanceErlick.com

Contact: finlee7@aol.com, (630) 946-6023

“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 plus travel expenses)

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

Website: www.raymondbenson.com

Contact: RBinPerson@comcast.net, (847) 217-0389

NEW! “Schools for the Rich and Poor: A Case Study” by Roger Prorise

This is the story of my journey through public schools as a student, teacher, assistant principal, principal, and superintendent. It begins in a 37-student third-grade classroom at Jenner School, where my school day ran noon to 4:00 p.m. The entire curriculum was reading, writing, and arithmetic; no music, art, or gym. It ends at Sears Schools in Kenilworth, which had three music teachers, three physical education teachers, two art teachers, and class sizes in the low twenties. Tenants of effective schools will be explored, such as the support of a significant adult and quality instruction. (Adults; 45 min; \$300 negotiable)

References: Dr. Ron Bearwald, former superintendent of East Prairie School, (847) 272-6918; Dr. Carl Lieberman, retired Chicago Public Schools principal, (847) 284-3357

Contact: rdprorise@gmail.com, (847) 323-2317

HISTORY

NEW! “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” as a tool that shares the cultural values, roots, and history of peoples. We will survey the music and milestones from the last 150 years of relationships between Latin America and the USA as a way of understanding history in a new way. 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; Micaela Harris, McLean County Museum of History, mharris@mchistory.org

Website: www.linktr.ee/catalinamariajohnson

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

“Making Your Ancestor Quest A Success” by Grace DuMelle

If you’re feeling frustrated in your family history progress, come hear about 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. (Adults; 60 min; \$195)

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

Website: hhrs1872.wordpress.com

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

NEW! **“Study Up on School Records for Success” by Grace DuMelle**

Birth date, residence, and parents’ names are some of the gems in school records. Learn the genealogical value of registration cards, yearbooks, graduation lists, and more; get tips for obtaining copies. 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 handout. (Adults; 60 min; \$195)

References: Julie Lynch, Sulzer Regional Library, jlynch@chipublib.org, (312) 742-4455

Website: hhrs1872.wordpress.com

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

NEW! **“Coleman, Coffey, and the Condor” 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; \$125 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

“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; \$175 with permission to sell books)

References: Kathy Hussey, Wilmette Historical Museum, (847) 853-7666, husseyk@wilmette.com; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

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

“Little Women of Baghlan: The Story of a Nursing School for Girls in Afghanistan, the Peace Corps, and Life Before the Taliban” by Susan Fox

What was everyday life in Afghanistan like before the Taliban took over? How did Peace Corps volunteers live and work with ordinary Afghan families? Travel back in time with Jo, a young American volunteer, in this true story that affords a window into history, when Americans were welcomed, and the Peace Corps represented the highest ideals of our country. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Keri Perkins, Edward Chipman Public Library, (815) 472-2581, frontdesk@momencelibrary.org

Website: www.littlewomenofbaghlan.com

Contact: suefox.writer@gmail.com, (815) 954-4375

“Hidden Figures for the AIDS Epidemic” by Victoria Noe

You won’t find them in women’s history books or documentaries about HIV/AIDS. Based on her award-winning book, *F*g Hags, Divas, and Moms: The Legacy of Straight Women in the AIDS Community*, Noe’s dynamic presentation reveals never-before-told stories of famous women like Elizabeth Taylor and Princess Diana to nuns, debutantes, and activists from Chicago and around the world. A ground-breaking perspective on an epidemic that has been with us for 41 years. Includes handout. (Adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Trudy Ring, journalist, trudy.ring@advocate.com; Sarah Hollenbeck, Women & Children First, sarah@womenandchildrenfirst.com

Website: www.victorianoe.com

Contact: victoria@victorianoe.com, (773) 450-0391

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

In Minnesota, August 1862, a smoldering conflict between the U.S. government and the Dakota Sioux erupted into war. The battle that followed forced President Lincoln to pull Minnesota troops from the Civil War to quell the uprising. 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. In light of recent Native American events, this story is still a timely one. (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 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. 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 struggle to liberate the Philippine Islands. (Adults; 60 min; \$150)

References: Annie Tillmann, Lake Villa District Library, (847) 356-7711, amtillmann@lvdli.org; Christine Fountain, Monarch Landing, (630) 300-1246, CFountain@monarchlanding.net

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

NEW! “Women Spies in the Civil War” by Kit Sergeant

A fascinating story of the Civil War that never made history books! Learn about the nation’s first female detectives, Kate Warne and Hattie Lewis Lawton, and the part they played in saving President Lincoln and the Union. The multimedia presentation also features other courageous women spies, including former slave Mary Jane Bowser. Presented by Kit Sergeant, author of *Underground: Traitors and Spies in the Civil War*. (All ages; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Thomas Pfeifer, Meade Junior High School, (847) 521-0368, thomaspfeifer@sd54.org; Eric Peterson, Streamwood High School, (407) 902-8610, ericcpeterson@u-46.org

Website: www.kitsergeant.com

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

NEW! “Women Spies in World War II” by Kit Sergeant

In 1942, as the free world crumbled beneath Hitler’s jackboot, Churchill’s Secret Army began recruiting women to infiltrate Occupied France. The women spies, who came from all walks of life, agreed to serve in the French Resistance even though they did not know if they would ever see their families again. Discover the adventures of some of these unimaginably brave women in this multimedia presentation by Kit Sergeant, author of *The Spark of Resistance*. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Thomas Pfeifer, Meade Junior High School, (847) 521-0368, thomaspfeifer@sd54.org; Eric Peterson, Streamwood High School, (407) 902-8610, ericcpeterson@u-46.org

Website: www.kitsergeant.com

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

“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

WWII and eastern Europe provide challenges as the history of that region leading up to and following WWII is very 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.danutaarbikas.com

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

NEW! **“One Hundred and Sixty Minutes: The Race to Save the RMS Titanic” by William Elliott Hazelgrove**

For Titanic Enthusiasts and there are many! Based on the book by national bestselling author William Hazelgrove, this presentation takes the audience on a riveting countdown as 10 ships turn around to try and save the RMS Titanic on April 14, 1912. Two ships are within 10 miles, yet refuse to come into the ice as the Titanic sinks in full view of The Californian and Mount Temple. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$250-300)

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

Website: www.williamhazelgrove.com

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

NEW! **“Greed in the Gilded Age: The Brilliant Con of Cassie Chadwick” by William Elliott Hazelgrove**

Lovers of The Gilded Age and the Netflix hit *Inventing Anna* will flock to see the story of the woman who took millions by claiming to be Andrew Carnegie’s illegitimate daughter. The Trial of the Century ensued where a drifter named Cassie Chadwick faced off with the richest man in America. Includes Handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$250-300)

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

Website: www.williamhazelgrove.com

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

“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

NEW! **“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; \$160 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.worldplate.com

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

“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; \$160 plus travel expenses 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 and where, how pirates got involved, how rum helped unite the 13 Colonies, and how it became one of the issues that sparked the American Revolution. From the Caribbean across the British Empire, from taxes to military rum rations, come discover how rum once ruled the world. Includes handout. (Adults; 60 min; \$160 plus travel expenses)

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

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, including Antarctica, China, Siberia, and Australia. 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 x 305, 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

“Echoes of Earth: Finding Ourselves in the Origins of the Planet” by L. Sue Baugh

Journey with award-winning author Sue Baugh, 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. View breathtaking images from Australia, Greenland, Northwest Canada, and the Grand Canyon. Explore the startling and profound connection between ourselves and our planet. Includes Earth's Timeline handouts. (All ages; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Cyndee Schaffer, American Association of University Women, (847) 917-4125, dcma5@aol.com; Terri Campbell, Prospect Heights Public Library, (847) 259-3500 x243, tcampbell@phpl.info

Website: www.wildstonearts.com

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

NEW! “Family Sabbatical 101” by Margo Weinstein and Sheila Maloney

Have you ever wanted to leave everything (except your family) behind and move abroad? Do you think such a move would be crazy or impossible to manage? Learn how and why two Chicago attorneys changed their lives when they moved to Shanghai and Bali (Weinstein) and Brazil (Maloney). Be inspired by their photos and candid stories to take the leap, too, or start slowly and travel vicariously through their books, *Jalan-Jalan* and *Family Gap Year*. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Ramona Zavala, Chicago Public Library-Harold Washington, (312) 747-4612, rthompson@chipublib.org; Carolyn Ptak, Chicago Public Library-Mount Greenwood, (312) 747-2805, cptak@chipublib.org

Websites: www.margoweinstein.com, www.familygapyearbrazil.com

Contacts: margo@margoweinstein.com, (312) 217-4473; sheilamaloney@gmail.com, (773) 407-6373

NEW! “A Journey of Wanderlust and Motherhood” by Margo Weinstein

Are you a single professional looking to escape through adventure travel? Are you a parent stuck in the kiddie pool on a Disney cruise? Author, attorney, and single mom Margo Weinstein has been both. In her book, *Jalan-Jalan: A Journey of Wanderlust and Motherhood*, Weinstein shares how she combined wanderlust and motherhood and found her path, her jalan-jalan. Weinstein's photos, videos, and candid stories will inspire you to explore the world and find your jalan-jalan. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Ramona Zavala, Chicago Public Library-Harold Washington, (312) 747-4612, rthompson@chipublib.org; Carolyn Ptak, Chicago Public Library-Mount Greenwood, (312) 747-2805, cptak@chipublib.org

Website: www.margoweinstein.com

Contact: margo@margoweinstein.com, (312) 217-4473

NEW! “Family Gap Year” by Sheila Maloney

Looking for *Eat Pray Love*, but for families? Learn how one Chicago family of five said goodbye to a frenetic daily grind and hello to a beautiful Brazilian way of life, filled with family, fresh food, and natural wonders. Maloney will share how they made it happen (with stunning photos), what they learned, and how you, too, can find healthy ways to nurture your soul and mental health through nature and connection. (Adults; 45-90 min; \$150 negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Carolyn Ptak, Chicago Public Library-Mount Greenwood, (312) 747-2805, cptak@chipublib.org; Rich Wojcikowski, Bookie’s Bookstores, (773) 239-1110, rich@bookieshomewood.com

Website: www.familygapyearbrazil.com

Contact: sheilamaloney@gmail.com, (773) 407-6373

YOUTH

“Finnigan the Circus Cat” by Mary T. Wagner

Publishers Weekly called *Finnigan the Circus Cat* “a charming animal story” and *Windy City Reviews* found it “a perfect chapter book for reading out loud.” Learn the backstory of the real Finnigan, a tiny rescue kitten who inspired the book. Wagner pairs conversations about pets, drawing, and imagination with selected readings, and finishes with a “Let’s draw Finnigan!” exercise for youngsters. (Children 5-11 and adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Elizabeth Welter, Novel Bay Booksellers, read@novelbaybooks.com; Kelly Holstine, WordHaven BookHouse, kelly@kellydholstine.com

Website: www.marytwagner.com

Contact: (262) 573-7161, runwstiletto@yahoo.com

WRITING, RESEARCH, AND LITERATURE

NEW! “Chicago History in Fiction and Non-Fiction” by Joe Rulli and Steve Bellinger

A history author and an award-winning science fiction author look at historical research in non-fiction and fiction in order to tell a fuller, more objective story of past events and to help deal with contemporary issues.

They also give recommendations on how to identify questionable news online. (Adults; 60 min; free with permission to sell books)

References: Suzy Takacs, The Book Cellar, (773) 293-2665, words@bookcellarinc.com

Website: www.chfnf.com

Contact: author@stevebellinger.com, (312) 880-9014

NEW! “Writing the Historical Novel” by Larry F. Sommers

Aspiring novelist or bemused bystander, you’ll gain a new perspective from Larry F. Sommers, author of *Price of Passage: A Tale of Immigration and Liberation*. Topics include finding your story, doing the research, writing your story, and building your platform, illustrated by real examples from Sommers’ six-year quest. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$125 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books)

References: Christine DeSmet, Author/Book Coach, (608) 222-5642, christine.desmet@wisc.edu; Laurie Scheer, Writing Mentor/Literary Goddess, (310) 428-4226, lascheer@me.com

Website: www.LarryFSommers.com

Contact: larryfsommers@gmail.com, (608) 224-9854

NEW! “Six Simple Steps to Literary Lionhood” by Larry F. Sommers

If you want to write and find readers, there is no way around it: You must become a Literary Lion. Claim your lionhood! Read, write, get feedback, associate, submit, and build your platform. Author Larry F. Sommers will guide you through the Six Simple Steps. But beware: Simple does not mean easy. This journey is for the brave. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$125 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books)

References: Christine DeSmet, Author/Book Coach, (608) 222-5642, christine.desmet@wisc.edu; Laurie Scheer, Writing Mentor/Literary Goddess, (310) 428-4226, lascheer@me.com

Website: www.LarryFSommers.com

Contact: larryfsommers@gmail.com, (608) 224-9854

NEW! “Mystery Writing Bootcamp” by Lori Rader-Day

Award-winning crime fiction author Lori Rader-Day (*Death at Greenway, The Lucky One, Under a Dark Sky, Little Pretty Things, The Black Hour*) offers a Mystery Writing 101 course to get thriller-curious writers launched into the chilling arts of suspense, clue-dropping,

misdirection, pacing, and more. Includes handouts. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; Fee personalized to budget, needs, and requests)

References: Jama Kehoe Bigger, Midwest Writers' Workshop, midwestwriters@yahoo.com; Erica O'Rourke, Cook Memorial Library, eorourke@cooklib.org

Website: www.LoriRaderDay.com

Contact: Lori@LoriRaderDay.com, (773) 860-1332

NEW! "Telling True Stories" by Dean Jobb

Have a true story to tell? Writing instructor and award-winning author Dean Jobb explores how to bring it to life using the storytelling techniques of fiction. Hook readers with gripping scenes. Describe places and events in immersive detail. Create vivid, memorable characters and add dialogue to get them talking. And do it all using only the facts. Along the way he will introduce research techniques and resources designed to elevate your writing. Includes handouts. Virtual presentation only. (Adults; 60-90 min; \$200)

References: Jane Rozek, Schaumburg Township District Library, (847) 923-3331, jrozek@stdl.org; Jennifer Thompson, Evanston History Center, (847) 475-3410, jthompson@evanstonhistorycenter.org

Website: www.deanjobb.com

Contact: djobb@dal.ca

NEW! "Writing Rituals" by Stephanie Rose Bird

In this hands-on workshop, artist and author Stephanie Rose Bird guides attendees to develop helpful writing rituals. From building sacred space parameters and cleansing or clearing space to conjuring and attracting the writer's muse as well as defeating writer's block, Bird shares age-old techniques in a usable and memorable manner. Includes handout. (Teens and Adults; 90 min; \$300 plus travel expenses with permission to sell books)

References: Camille Wilson White, Oak Park Area Arts Council, (708) 358-5692, camillew2@oakparkareaartscouncil.org; Iya Sobande Greer, Sacred Waters Retreat, (615) 669-4351

Website: www.stephanierosebird.com

Contact: stephanierosebird@gmail.com, (708)846-0865

NEW! "Memoir Writing for Seniors" by Donna Urbikas

With the firm belief that everyone has at least one good book in them, 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 will address issues of how to pick relevant anecdotal stories and expand them into meaningful content, deal with sensitive revelations involving others, handle meaningful revisions, using the differences between memoir and autobiography, and more. Writing prompts and exercises will be offered along with a limited review of student works. Includes 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! "Creating a Writer's World" by Patricia Skalka

Writers live in the world differently. They connect to their surroundings in ways that spark ideas and inform their work. Learn the skills and techniques you need to think and act like a writer from Patricia Skalka, award-winning author of the Dave Cubiak Door County mystery series and a former *Reader's Digest* staff writer. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Jerod Santek, Write On Door County, (920) 868-1457, jerod@writeondoorcounty.org; Amy Mazzariello, Untitled Town Book and Author Festival, (920) 406-0200, amy@lionsmouthbookstore.com

Website: www.patriciaskalka.com

Contact: patricia.skalka@gmail.com, (773) 343-4631

NEW! "Become a Better Writer" by Patricia Skalka

What will make you a better writer? Attention to detail is key. The words you choose, the sentences you create, the dialogue you compose, and the scenes you construct combine to make the magic happen. Learn simple strategies to hone your craft and enhance your work from Patricia Skalka, award-winning author of the Dave Cubiak Door County mysteries and former *Reader's*

Digest staff writer. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Michael Hominick, Northbrook Public Library, (847) 272-2958, mhominick@northbrook.info; Ruth Percey, Lakefly Writers Conference, (920) 236-5205, percey@oshkoshpubliclibrary.org

Website: www.patriciaskalka.com

Contact: patricia.skalka@gmail.com, (773) 343-4631

NEW! “Miles from Motown” by Lisa Sukenic

Travel back in time to 1967 with twelve-year old poet Georgia Johnson, who’s entered the *Spirit of Detroit Poetry Contest* judged by her idol Gwendolyn Brooks. This historical middle grade novel in verse was a Library of Michigan 2022 Notable Book. Topics covered include: moving, change, resiliency, coping, bullying, friendship, and the Vietnam War. Includes a poetry writing workshop. (4th grade to Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Cyndie Chapin, Schoolcraft Community Library, (269) 679-5959, cchapin@schoolcraftlibrary.org; Libby Ester, North Shore Country Day School, (847) 525-1457, Libbyester1@gmail.com

Website: www.lisasukenic.com

Contact: Waterbyrd7@aol.com, (773) 842-0445

“Start Strong, End Strong” by Rebecca Johns

The ending is everything. Aspiring writers will learn the art and craft of creating effective endings with DePaul University creative writing professor Rebecca Johns, author of *The Countess: A Novel of Elizabeth Bathory and Icebergs: A Novel*, a PEN/Hemingway finalist. Includes handouts and exercises. (Adults; 90 min; \$400 with permission to sell books)

References: Rachel Murray, Warren-Newport Public Library, (847) 244-5150

Website: www.rebeccajohns.com

Contact: rebeccajohns1971@yahoo.com

“Creating Characters” by Rebecca Johns

Aspiring writers will learn the art and craft of creating more complex, more dynamic characters by creating high personal stakes and layering narrative techniques from DePaul University creative writing professor Rebecca Johns, author of *The Countess: A Novel of Elizabeth Bathory and Icebergs: A*

Novel, a PEN/Hemingway finalist work. Includes handouts and exercises. (Adults; 90 min; \$400 with permission to sell books)

References: Rachel Murray, Warren-Newport Public Library, (847) 244-5150

Website: www.rebeccajohns.com

Contact: rebeccajohns1971@yahoo.com

“Structuring Your Novel” by Rebecca Johns

Aspiring writers will learn the craft of structuring a novel from beginning to end from DePaul University creative writing professor Rebecca Johns, author of *The Countess: A Novel of Elizabeth Bathory and Icebergs: A Novel*, a PEN/Hemingway finalist work. Includes handouts and exercises. (Adults; 90 min; \$400 with permission to sell books)

References: Rachel Murray, Warren-Newport Public Library, (847) 244-5150

Website: www.rebeccajohns.com

Contact: rebeccajohns1971@yahoo.com

NEW! “Turning Family Heirlooms into Family Stories” by Margot McMahon

During the holidays, you might set a table with Grandma’s depression glass goblets. That is the source of your story. The thing that triggers your emotions is the root of untold stories and your family history. Jot 500-word snippets. The Greek three-act narrative structure helps you weave snippets into a narrative arc. (Adults; 80 min; \$250)

References: Kate Buckhardt, Lake Forest Library, kbuckhardt@lakeforestlibrary.org; Margita Lidaka, Oak Park Library, mlidaka@oppl.org

Website: www.margotmcmahon.com

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