

Now in its 14th 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:

- 75 original programs from 41 local presenters
- 39 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, informative, and inspired programming 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



2025 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

With the relationship between police and the public continuing to generate attention, *On the Job: Behind the Stars of the Chicago Police* author Daniel P. Smith brings audiences behind the scenes to discover the Chicago Police Department. Smith shares 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. He also details the gripping personal experiences that led him to pen his debut book. (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

NEW! “Street Fight: The Chicago Taxi Wars of the 1920s” by Anne Morrissy

Author Anne Morrissy presents a short reading from her 2024 book *Street Fight: The Chicago Taxi Wars of the 1920s* accompanied by an optional slide deck presentation. *Street Fight* tells the compelling story of the early development of the cab industry in Chicago and the violent clashes between drivers from the major cab companies. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 45 min; \$150 virtual, \$200 in-person negotiable with permission to sell books)

References: Nikki Swafford, DAR Culper Ring Agent 355 Chapter, (312) 929-5391, nichole.swafford@gmail.com; Lizzy Boden, Hinsdale Public Library, (630) 986-1976, lboden@hinsdalelibrary.info

Website: www.annemorrissy.com

Contact: anne@annemorrissy.com, (262) 745-4001

“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 among them – 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

“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; \$250 virtual, \$300 in-person)

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! “Suffrage in the Land of Lincoln: How Illinois Women Won the Vote” by Nicole Evelina

From the founding of the first woman suffrage society in Illinois in 1855 to 1919 when Illinois became the first state to approve the 19th Amendment, thousands of women dedicated their lives to winning the right to vote. Join *USA Today* bestselling author Nicole Evelina as she discusses the 64-year history of the Illinois Suffrage movement. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 in-person + travel expenses with permission to sell books, \$150 virtual)

References: Ginger Brickey, Jefferson County Library-Northwest, gbrickey@jeffcolib.org, (636) 671-8186; David Beaumier, Chanticleer Books and Media, dbeaumier@chantireviews.com

Website: www.nicoleevelina.com

Contact: nicole.evelina@att.net

NEW! “Chicago’s Murderous Mobsters, Midway Monsters, and Windy City Oddities” by Laura Enright

Far from a toddling town, Chicago has always been a charging town, meeting challenges head-on, losing big, and winning bigger. Laura Enright will discuss many fascinating tales, legends, and lives featured in her book *Chicago’s Most Wanted: The Top Ten Book of Murderous Mobsters, Midway Monsters, and Windy City Oddities*. (All ages; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Hilary Gabel, Glenview Public Library, (847), 729-7500 x2310, hgabel@glenviewpl.org; Colette Legore, Mather Place of Wilmette, clegore@matherlifeways.com, (847) 256-9552

Website: www.laura-enright.com

Contact: lauraenright64@gmail.com

“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

“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

“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

“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; \$175 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, (847) 736-5812

“Chicago: Shaping the Airline Industry” by Michael Haupt

Chicago played a critical role in forming the airline industry – for the U.S. as well as the world. 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; \$175 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, (847) 736-5812

“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; \$175 with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.aviation-chicago.com

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

“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

“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, ddammann@kenosha.org; Bill Furry, Illinois State Historical Society, (217) 525-2781, wfurry@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.robertgirardi.com

Contact: (773) 319-3508, Cv1WarGuy@aol.com

“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 + 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

LIFE & FAMILY

NEW! “AI for Caregivers: Taking Advantage of a Virtual Assistant” by Dr. Vicki Atkinson and Wynne Leon

Learn how generative AI can ease the heavy load for caregivers. Authors Vicki Atkinson and Wynne Leon inspire you to think creatively about the use of virtual assistants. From building a budget, creating notifications, managing schedules, and more, AI can relieve caregivers of burdensome tasks. Even better? We’ll show you how AI can open doors to creative pursuits – like capturing family history and precious stories. Includes handouts, resources, and Q&A. Virtual only. (Adults; 60 min; \$150)

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

Websites: www.sharingtheheartofthematter.com, www.atkinsongroupsolutions.com, www.avitiva.com

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

NEW! “Getting Wiser: 101 Essential Life Lessons and Inspiring Stories” by Dr. Michael S. Lewis

If you could spend an evening with one person, who would it be? What about 101 individuals with extraordinary life experiences? Former Chicago Bulls orthopedic consultant Dr. Michael Lewis shares inspiring wisdom and life lessons from 101 remarkable people he’s met, including Michael Jordan, Elie Wiesel, Abraham Maslow, and Phil Jackson. Hear highlights during this lively lecture and Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$100 with permission to sell books and all

profits donated to charity)

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

NEW! “Basic Backyard Chicken Keeping” by Jennifer Murtoff

This class is designed for curious folks who are considering getting chickens as well as for those who already have their own birds. We’ll cover a wealth of information, including local laws, the special needs of chicks, nutritional requirements, coop design, breeds, common issues chicken keepers face, and other topics. Includes handouts, Q&A. Live chicken optional. (Adults; 120 min; \$300 + travel expenses)

References: Cynthia Clampitt, Mensa, (847) 924-2943, caclampitt@att.net; Maureen Garzaro, Roselle Public Library, (630) 529-1641 x. 212, mgarzaro@rosellepld.org

Website: www.htrchickens.com

Contact: murtoff@gmail.com, (708) 259-6877

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW! “The Armchair Negotiator” by Gerry Parran

The presentation educates non-professional negotiators on negotiating without confrontation and defending against aggressive negotiators. Gerry Parran, who wrote the book *33 Ways Not to Screw Up Negotiating* (Networlding Publishing) for a business audience, has developed a presentation for negotiating in everyday situations targeted to a general audience. The program includes a pre-presentation negotiation skills assessment, handouts with critical takeaways, and Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$195 with permission to sell books and Negotiating Cards)

References: Kate Donley, Oak Lawn Public Library, (708) 422-4990 x511, kdonley@olpl.org; Jim Hanahan, Hope Global, (401) 228-5535, jhanahan@hopeglobal.com.

Website: www.negotiatorsnotebook.com

Contact: gerry.parran@gmail.com, (847) 644-2699

NEW! “The Ball’s in Your Court” by Dr. Michael S. Lewis

What does it take to be a world-class champion and how can we apply that knowledge to our lives? Former Chicago Bulls and White Sox orthopedic consultant Dr. Michael S. Lewis answers this question through life lessons and intimate portraits of the many world-class sports figures he’s met during his career, including Michael Jordan, Phil Jackson, Carlton Fisk, and Bill Veeck. (Adults; 60 min; \$100 with permission to sell books with all profits donated to charity)

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

NEW! “Re-ignite Your Creative Spark: Employing Coaching Tools to Help Your Creativity Flow Again” by Gina DeCiani

Learn about your creative blocks and how to deal with them. Certified professional coach Gina DeCiani will walk you through a series of exercises designed to help you quiet those nagging internal voices that keep you from working and reclaim your creative confidence to finish those projects! Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150)

References: Karen Ladany, Well Led, karenladany@gmail.com, (860) 508-1617; Amanda Nitson Ross, Versus Global, rossamandaa@gmail.com

Website: www.ginadeciani.com

Contact: gdeciani@gmail.com, (312) 213-2109

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 precise 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; \$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

NEW! “Writing for Wellness” by Dr. Vicki Atkinson

Join Dr. Vicki Atkinson, author and Licensed Professional Counselor, to learn about unlocking your storyteller’s heart and enhancing your self-care game at the same time. Discover Atkinson’s top 10 techniques for improving life satisfaction and relationships and reducing stress – all through developing your voice as a writer. Includes handouts, resources, and Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.atkinsongroupsolutions.com

Contact: vatkinson815@gmail.com, (847) 927-2385

NEW! “Social Connections – How They Can Improve (or Trash) Your Health and Our Communities” by Joan Davis

Is social isolation as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day? Really? Despite social media, true social connection has plummeted in recent years – and Americans, as individuals and communities, are paying a steep physical and emotional price as loneliness and social isolation climb. Learn how to evaluate and expand your social network. Discover practical strategies and research-based resources to increase meaningful social encounters in your daily life despite an increasingly disconnected world. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 negotiable)

References: Dee McConnell, Harper College Lifelong Learning institute, (847) 925-6875, Dmcconnell@harpercollege.edu; Kimberly Hodges, White Oak Library, (815) 552-4275 4284, khodges@whiteoaklib.org

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, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 negotiable)

References: Dee McConnell, Harper College Lifelong Learning institute, (847) 925-6875, Dmcconnell@harpercollege.edu; Kimberly Hodges, White Oak Library, (815) 552-4275 4284, khodges@whiteoaklib.org

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 provides tips to successfully incorporate Blue Zone strategies into your own life. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$175 negotiable)

References: Dee McConnell, Harper College Lifelong Learning institute, (847) 925-6875, Dmcconnell@harpercollege.edu; Kimberly Hodges, White Oak Library, (815) 552-4275 4284, khodges@whiteoaklib.org

Website: www.plantbasedjoan.com

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

NEW! “Linguistics: The Basics” by Jennifer Murtoff

What are the components of language? Are “the rules” we learned in English class *really* important, and why don’t we follow all of them? Why do spelling and pronunciation differ? How do we create meaning in language? Murtoff offers a crash course in the basics of structural linguistics (phonetics, syntax, phonology, morphology, semantics, and pragmatics) and peppers her program with humorous examples of the use (and misuse) of language. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 120 min; \$300 + travel expenses)

References: Cynthia Clampitt, Mensa, (847) 924-2943, caclampitt@att.net; Lacey Hudec, Mensa, (630) 779-3103, LaceyWeeM@gmail.com

Contact: murtoff@gmail.com, (708) 259-6877

NEW! “The Highly Sensitive Person: An Overview” by Jennifer Murtoff

This presentation examines the characteristics of the Highly Sensitive Person (HSP). According to the research of Elaine Aron, HSPs have nervous and sensory systems more attuned to the environment than those of non-HSPs. As a result, sensory input can easily cause overstimulation and anxiety for the HSP. The presentation addresses strategies for dealing with the trait in everyday life. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 + travel expenses)

References: Cynthia Clampitt, Mensa, (847) 924-2943, caclampitt@att.net; Matt Crawford, Mensa, matt8128@gmail.com
Contact: murtoff@gmail.com, (708) 259-6877

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@harpercollege.edu
Website: www.jamesfinngarner.com, www.bardball.com
Contact: (773) 878-7450, velda@jamesfinngarner.com

NEW! “He Had It Coming: The True Story Behind the Musical *Chicago*” by Nicole Evelina

Join *USA Today* bestselling author Nicole Evelina for a whirlwind look at the real women behind the Jazz Age controversy and the female reporter who not only brought their stories to life, but wrote the play the musical is based upon. Fun fact: one of them is why women are now allowed to serve on juries. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 in-person + travel expenses with permission to sell books, \$150 virtual)

References: Ginger Brickey, Jefferson County Library-Northwest, gbrickey@jeffcolib.org, (636) 671-8186; David Beaumier, Chanticleer Books and Media, dbeaumier@chantireviews.com
Website: www.nicoleevelina.com
Contact: nicole.evelina@att.net

“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 + travel expenses, \$250 virtual)

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

“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

NEW! “The Evolution of the Vampire” by Laura Enright

Throughout time, the vampire has been both the sum of all our fears and the perfect scapegoat, yet the vampire has retained an allure carrying its popularity across centuries. Author Laura Enright examines the evolution of the vampire in myth, literature, and media and how an ancient bogeyman, by turns, has become a romantic figure, superhero, and even a teen dream. (All ages; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Laura Foutch, Messenger Public Library, (630) 896-0240, LFoutch@messengerpl.org; Annie Tillmann Niles-Maine District Library, (847) 663-6431, atillmann@nileslibrary.org

Website: www.laura-enright.com

Contact: lauraenright64@gmail.com

NEW! “Housing Projects and Mansions, Inside Neighborhood Schools” by Roger Prosis

Have you ever wondered how schools in the inner city compare with schools in the suburbs? Roger Prosis has lived and worked on both sides of the nation’s wealth divide and describes his life as a student and teacher in cash-strapped, inner-city schools as well as life as a principal and superintendent in well-resourced suburban schools. He explores questions such as: Are traits of

effective schools the same in both settings? What are the four most important attributes of any school? A program for educators and parents confronted with decisions about schools. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 45-60 mins; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Ron Bearwald, East Prairie School, (847) 272-6918, eddoc@ameritech.net; Gerry Gutek, Loyola University Chicago, (708) 557-0589, glgutek@yahoo.com

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

“Artificial Intelligence Promise & Peril” by Lance Erlick

Leading scientists have expressed concern about the risks posed by AI. After recent advances, leading voices in AI take seriously the possibility of superintelligence before 2060, with major developments by 2030. Come join a discussion of the promise of AI, myths, threats, and what we should know about changes to our world. Includes handouts. (Older teens and adults; 60 min; \$225 + travel expenses with permission to sell books)

References: Jeanne Garman, Mensa, chem1946@gmail.com; Joan Waxman, North Shore Senior Center, jwaxman@nssc.org

Website: www.LanceErlick.com

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

NEW! “Dead Air: The Night Orson Welles Terrified America” by William Elliott Hazelgrove

Based on his just-released book, *Dead Air: The Night Orson Welles Terrified America*, William Hazelgrove uses the actual broadcast and many media stories to detail the great Halloween hoax of 1938. That’s when 23-year-old Orson Welles broadcast to the world that Martians had landed in New Jersey and were exterminating humans with heat ray guns and poisonous gas. The coast-to-coast terror takes viewers on a wild ride through America as people run for the hills, contemplate suicide, get in accidents, run out of restaurants, theatres, and churches believing the war had ended. Includes Q&A. (Teens and adults; 50 min; \$325 with permission to sell books)

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

“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 + 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

HISTORY

“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; \$175 + 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 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. (All ages; 60 min; \$175 + 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

NEW! “Who Were the Ritchie Boys?” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

Starting in 1942, nearly 2,500 (mostly Jewish) refugees from German-speaking countries were conscripted into the US Army. Their fluency in German and knowledge of German customs helped them become ideal intelligence professionals and prisoner of war interrogators. Trained in a highly classified program at Camp Ritchie in Maryland before being sent back to Europe, these soldiers were responsible for 60 percent of enemy troop movements on the ground. Their accomplishment is one of the least-known stories of World War II. Thriller author Libby Fischer Hellmann, author of *Max's War: The Story of a Ritchie Boy*, shares their story. (Adults; 60 min; \$400 with permission to sell books)

References: Melissa Morgan, Winnetka-Northfield Library, mmorgan@winnetkalibrary.org; Robert McDonald, The Book Stall, books@thebookstall.com

Website: www.libbyhellmann.com

Contact: libbyfh@libbyhellmann.com

NEW! “Bill Perkins Story” by Debora Masterson

On October 12, 1967, combat photographer Cpl. William T. Perkins, Jr. made the ultimate sacrifice when he hurled himself onto an enemy hand grenade saving the lives of his fellow Marines. Thirty years later, the filmmakers set out to discover what happened to their high school friend that day in the Hai Lang Forest of Vietnam. Cpl. Perkins is the only combat photographer in our nation's history to receive the Medal of Honor. Producer Debora Masterson shows her 30-minute PBS documentary “Above and Beyond: The Story of Cpl. William T. Perkins, Jr. USMC” before participating in a Q&A with veterans and film personnel. (Adults; 90 min; \$150 with permission to sell DVDs and 10 percent of proceeds donated to local veteran centers)

References: Chuck Baylis, Military History Society of Rochester, (585) 737-2627, acwartillery@rochester.rr.com; John Gilbert, “Above and Beyond” film editor, (818) 652-8724, johngilbert3000@gmail.com

Website: www.craigingraham.com/documentary

Contact: deborawkart@gmail.com, (818) 635-7855

“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

NEW! “The Enemy Within: Double Agents of WWII” by Kit Sergeant

Journey into the shadowy world of double agents who crossed the line between survival and betrayal, such as Mathilde Carré, aka “The Cat,” whose deception brought down the very Resistance network she helped to build, and Henri Déricourt, the daring pilot whose flights of intrigue made him one of the war's most controversial figures. Join Kit Sergeant, author of *The Spark of Resistance*, for this multimedia presentation exploring these and other double agents. Giveaways include stickers and bookmarks. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.kitsergeant.com

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

“World War II Women Spies: 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 by Kit Sergeant, author of *Marie-Madeleine* and *Nancy Wake*. Giveaways include stickers and bookmarks. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.kitsergeant.com

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

“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, 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 by Kit Sergeant, author of *The Spark of Resistance*. Giveaways include stickers and bookmarks. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

Reference: 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 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 fierce battle 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 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: Hillary Wenk, JCC Chicago, hwenk@jccchicago.org, (224) 406-9257; Annie Tillmann, Lake Villa District Library, amtillmann@lvdl.org, (847) 356-7711

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

“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 + 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

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

Follow Cyndee Schaffer on a journey from inspiration to publication about women in WWII as 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, Frankfurt. 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. Presentation includes WAC recruiting movie, slideshow, photos, letters, medals, and memorabilia. (Teens and adults; 60 min; \$150 virtual, \$250-\$450 negotiable in-person with permission to sell books)

References: Cecille Gerber, Tiskilwa Historical Society, cecillegrbr2@gmail.com; Greg Kessler, Edwardsville Public Library, GregK@edwpl.org

Website: www.mollieswar.com

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

NEW! “An Artist Goes to War: Leon Granacki in the South Pacific World War II” by Victoria Ann Granacki

The very personal story of an ordinary Chicago soldier who used his art skills to survive war in the South Pacific. Original maps, jungle watercolors, journal illustrations, and letters home to his extended Polish-American family reveal his longing for family, shared holidays, fishing, and a woman to love. Granacki’s

program may help you understand the soldiers in your own family who never spoke about their wartime experiences. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Bozena Nowicka McLees, Loyola University Chicago, (773) 508-2864, bmclees@luc.edu; Ewa Barczyk, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Libraries, (414) 412-6456, ewa@uwm.edu

Website: www.GranackiArts.com

Contact: (312) 810-1212, granacki@aol.com

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

“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; \$175 + 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

NEW! “One World: Peak Photographic Travel Experiences to All Seven Continents” by Dr. Michael S. Lewis

Join Dr. Michael S. Lewis 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 and published in books and magazines. Lewis will share a selection of these photos and discuss his peak experiences demonstrating how we are all connected. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$100 with permission to sell books with all profits donated to charity)

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

NEW! “Travelogue: Grandma Goes to Italy” by Jeanne Roppolo

Join Grandma Jeanne on another one of her true-life adventures. Take a whirlwind tour through Rome, Pisa, Florence, Verona, and Venice with over 200 of her personal photographs. Enrich your understanding of local life and thousands of years of history living side by side. (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

NEW! “Cultural Diversity from Around the World: Right, Wrong, or Just Different?” by Jeanne Roppolo

Broaden your knowledge and understanding of our fellow human beings as we travel around the world, peering into various traditions and finding our common ground. Your choice: a general glance or a more in-depth look at Fashion, Home & Family, Food, Festivals. Fourteen categories to choose from, all informative and entertaining. (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

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

Explore the startling and profound connection between ourselves and our planet. View breathtaking images from Australia, Greenland, Northwest Canada, and the Grand Canyon. Award-winning author Sue Baugh traveled 54,000 miles by camper car, fishing boat, floatplane, and river raft to discover our human heritage locked in the world’s oldest rock and mineral sites. 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, dcmaj5@aol.com; Aubri Kinahan, Round Lake Area Public Library, (847) 546-7060, akinahan@rlalibrary.org

Website: www.wildstonearts.com

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

WRITING, RESEARCH, & LITERATURE

“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, who penned *The Profitable Author: 1,001 Ways to Build a Business You Love Around Your Books*, outlines eight ways authors can customize their sales and marketing approaches and shows how any author – traditional, hybrid, or self-published – can take an entrepreneurial approach to reaching their goals. Includes resource list, Q&A. (Adults; 60-120 min; \$300-\$500 with permission to sell books)

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

Website: www.conspirecreative.com

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

“Building Suspense” by Libby Fischer Hellmann

Why do readers keep turning the pages? Suspense. Building suspense into your work is an essential element of fiction, no matter what genre you write. In this one-hour interactive workshop, award-winning thriller author Libby Fischer Hellmann explains how to do it and illustrates techniques you can apply to your writing right away. Appropriate for all fiction writers regardless of genre. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$400 with permission to sell books)

Reference: Chris Posinger, Des Plaines Public Library, CPosinger@dppl.org

Website: www.libbyhellmann.com

Contact: libbyfh@libbyhellmann.com

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 in a professional manner. Workshop includes the benefits, drawbacks, and costs versus traditional publishing as well as tips for doing it yourself. Includes handouts and charts. (Adults; 60 min; \$400 with permission to sell books)

References: Courtney Welsh, Helen Plum Library, programming@helenplum.org

Website: www.libbyhellmann.com

Contact: libbyfh@libbyhellmann.com

NEW! “The Novel Writing Game – a Different Perspective” by Mim Eichmann

Feeling constricted by all those pesky “rules” as you’re attempting to pen your first novel or short story? We’ll explore many questionable concepts, including: write every day or you’re a slacker ... write what you know ... pantsier or plotter – does it matter? ... the conspiracy against adverbs and adjectives. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$75 with permission to sell books & cds)

References: Karen Bonarek, Downers Grove Public Library, (630) 960-1200, kbonarek@dglibrary.org

Website: www.mimeichmann.com

Contact: mombo33@aol.com, (630) 747-3411

NEW! “Family Stories: Past, Present, & Future” by Jeanne & Kea Roppolo

Stories from our ancestral lineage open a richer, fuller understanding of who you are as a family. In this mini workshop, discover how to uncover these forgotten stories while learning to write your own legacy. Join Grandma Jeanne and granddaughter Kea, a certified genealogist, as you begin your special journey. (All ages; 60 min; \$400 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! “Writing Grief – Before, During, and After Loss” by Lea Grover

As writers, we often find that processing our experiences is done best on paper. Book coach Lea Grover details several important kinds of grief (anticipatory grief, the 7 stages of grief, silent grief) and how the way we write about our experiences is filtered and understood during these stages. This workshop isn’t only about writing grief, it’s about using writing as a tool to better understand the stages as we go through them or reflect upon them. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Sarah Fader, Stigma Fighters, sarahfader@gmail.com, (917) 699-9578; Sara McGovern, RAINN, (202) 544-5537, saram@rainn.org

Contact: lea.r.grover@gmail.com, (312) 437-3724

NEW! “Write Trauma Without Traumatizing Your Reader – or Yourself”
by **Lea Grover**

Whether you’re writing memoir, fiction, or history, writing about traumatic experiences can be a challenge. Lea Grover, book coach, RAINN (Rape Abuse and Incest National Network) Speakers Bureau member, and Special Projects associate for The Voices and Faces Project, will provide you with tools to convey a difficult story to your readers without exploiting yourself or your characters. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Sarah Fader, Stigma Fighters, sarahfader@gmail.com, (917) 699-9578; Sara McGovern, RAINN, (202) 544-5537, saram@rainn.org

Contact: lea.r.grover@gmail.com, (312) 437-3724

NEW! “How To Create a Writing Platform” by **Dr. Vicki Atkinson and Wynne Leon**

Establish your online writing presence with actionable steps to build your writing identity. Authors Vicki Atkinson and Wynne Leon have interviewed dozens of writers, authors, and bloggers and know the terrain. Unlock the keys to build a writer’s life while juggling other roles. With clear how-to’s about getting started, promotion ideas on social media, and encouragement, this session will help you begin your writing journey with confidence. Includes handouts, resources, and Q&A. Virtual only. (Adults; 60 minutes; \$150)

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

Websites: www.sharingtheheartofthematter.com, www.atkinsongroupsolutions.com, www.avitiva.com

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

NEW! “Roots of Worldbuilding: How a Single Principle Can Shape Your Entire Setting” by **J. Von Tobel**

While worldbuilding is critical to the creative process, it can be frustrating and time-consuming. Hack the worldbuilding process by digging to the root of your setting. J. Von Tobel, author of *Curse of Flame* and *Fated to be Monsters*, shares a technique to cut through the noise and create realistic, intriguing settings. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$200 with permission to sell books)

References: Morena Stamm, The Wild Rose Press, morena@thewildrosepress.com; C.M. Leyva, author, cmleyvaauthor@gmail.com

Website: www.jacobvontobel.com

Contact: jacobvontobel@gmail.com, (773) 358-8495

NEW! “Combining Knowledge of Literature with Academic Research and Journalism in Long-Form Narrative Nonfiction” by **Carolyn Boiarsky**

Integrate literary references and academic research into nonfiction to provide color, deepen philosophic concepts, and provide historical context. In her book *Lead Babies and Poisoned Housing*, Carolyn Boiarsky included descriptions from Charles Dickens and Sandra Cisneros, lines from T. S. Eliot, and references to Henrik Ibsen’s *Enemy of the People* to expand characterizations and scenes and offer commentary on situations. Academic Research gives depth to the background and offers a context for the situations reported. Includes Q&A. (Adults; 45-60 min; \$500 with permission to sell books + travel reimbursement)

References: Marie Moro, Purdue University Northwest, Mora41@pnw.edu, (219) 989-4180; Dave Hoekstra, former Chicago Sun Times reporter, (312) 315-1281, davehoekstra@att.net

Contact: (219) 688-3160, boiarsc@comcast.net, boiarsc@pnw.edu

NEW! “Get Your Play Produced” by **Charles Grippo**

Have you written a play? Would you like the thrill of having it produced by an actual theater company? Entertainment attorney, playwright, producer, author, and Lifetime Member of the Dramatists Guild Charles Grippo explains finding a producer, royalties, contracts, the Playwrights Bill of Rights, copyright, and professional play manuscript formatting. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Teens and Adults; 60 min; \$300 virtual, \$350 in-person with permission to sell books + travel reimbursement beyond fifty miles)

References: Denny Farrell, The Voice Bank, (630) 377-7677, thevoicebank@comcast.net

Website: www.charlesgrippolawyer.com

Contact: (773) 704-2302, charlesgrippo@charlesgrippolawyer.com

NEW! “Turn Your Expertise into a Book” by **Charles Grippo**

Be recognized as an expert in your field by writing a book. Earn royalties, attract clients, increase your fees, impress family, friends and colleagues. Attorney, author, and Chicago Ambassador for the Authors Guild Charles Grippo will show you how. Workshop includes the essential elements to include in your book, traditional vs. self publishing, marketing, and promotion. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 virtual, \$350 in-person with permission to sell books + travel reimbursement beyond fifty miles)

References: Denny Farrell, The Voice Bank, (630) 377-7677, thevoicebank@comcast.net

Website: www.charlesgrippolawyer.com

Contact: (773) 704-2302, charlesgrippo@charlesgrippolawyer.com

NEW! “Ghostwriting For Fun and Profit – Especially Profit” by Charles Grippio

Get your share of the lucrative market for ghostwriters. Chicago Ambassador for the Authors Guild member Charles Grippio shows how to profit from the exploding demand for ghostwriters. Workshop includes identifying opportunities, setting your fees, contracts, and how to use your creative writing abilities to build a full or part-time business. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 60 min; \$300 virtual, \$350 in-person with permission to sell books + travel reimbursement beyond fifty miles)

References: Denny Farrell, The Voice Bank, (630) 377-7677, thevoicebank@comcast.net

Website: www.charlesgrippolawyer.com

Contact: (773) 704-2302, charlesgrippio@charlesgrippolawyer.com

NEW! “Which Book Publishing Model Is Right for You? Traditional or Indie?” by Sherrill Bodine and Debi Catenacci

Sherrill Bodine and Debi Catenacci, co-founders of the Dare to be Curious lifestyle YouTube channel have each taken a different route in publishing their respective books. They share what works and what doesn't in a successful writing career. Bodine is the author of *Talk of the Town* and 18 traditionally published novels with Harlequin, Ballantine, and Hackett. Catenacci, author of *Divine Biscotti*, published indie style and her recipes are in pastry books as well as magazines. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 30 min; \$150)

Reference: Tina P. Schwartz, The Purcell Agency, tina@thepurcellagency.com

Website: www.bigbiggerbiggest.life, divinebiscotti.com

Contact: Sherrill Bodine (847) 404-0663, Debi Catenacci (844) 900-0909

NEW! “Why Write?” by Nancy Stevenson

Nancy Stevenson's *Long Reach* is an environmental mystery, published by The Wild Rose Press just before Stevenson's 90th birthday. Whatever your age or interests, come chat with Stevenson about the joys and rewards of the writing process. Write what you know. Write what you don't know. Just write. Includes handouts, Q&A. (Adults; 30-60 min; permission to sell books + travel reimbursement)

References: Sean Eshaghy, Friends of American Writers, (312) 203-6896; Sharon Anderson, Near North Public Library, sanderso@chipublib.org, (312) 744-0991

Website: www.NancyWriter.com

Contact: stevensonnancy04@gmail.com, (773) 633-5661

NEW! “What? Write My True Story as Narrative Nonfiction?” by Susan Fox

So you're writing a true story, a nonfiction book. Learn why you might consider narrative nonfiction to tell your story. Discover how it can help you balance research with a compelling narrative. Find out why Susan Fox chose that genre to write her book, *Little Women of Baghlan: The Story of a Nursing School for Girls in Afghanistan, the Peace Corps, and Life Before the Taliban*. (Adults; 60 min; \$150 with permission to sell books)

References: Becky Hase-Plefka, Peotone Public Library, (708) 258-3436, bjhase-plefka@peotonelibrary.org; Janice Krizik Schmidt, VP Tuesday Book Review, (815) 263-6305, jkrizik@gmail.com

Website: www.littlewomenofbaghlan.com

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

NEW! “Living to Write” by Patricia Skalka

Writers are curious, imaginative, and creative. They are life-long learners who are skilled at their craft. Patricia Skalka, an award-winning mystery novelist, invites you inside the writer's world and gives you both the perspective and the real-life tools you need to live and think as a writer, tools that will nurture your dream and guide you on your journey to becoming a writer. (Adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Jerod Santek, Write On Door County, (920) 868-1457, jerod@writeondoorcounty.org; Kathy Giorgi, Allwriters Workshop, (262) 446-0484, kathygiorgi3chi@yahoo.com

Website: www.PatriciaSkalka.com

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

NEW! “Writing a Great Novel” by Patricia Skalka

Everyone can have a great idea, but only a great story can become a great novel. Award-winning mystery writer Patricia Skalka tells how to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your story concept and presents a series of useful strategies that can help your great idea come alive through pacing, plotting, structure, character development, dialogue, and worldbuilding. Includes handouts. (Adults; 60 min; \$250 with permission to sell books)

References: Jerod Santek, Write On Door County, (920) 868-1457, jerod@writeondoorcounty.org; Kathy Giorgi, Allwriters Workshop, (262) 446-0484, kathygiorgi3chi@yahoo.com

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