History Author Series

Fall 2010

This unique program will feature 18 authors and a crash course in Chicago History. Sessions will be hosted in the Baggage Room of the Depot.

This event is free and donations are always appreciated!
Saturday, September 11, 4pm

Join us for the 2010 Chicago History Author Series kick-off event at the Lisle Depot Museum featuring Kermit Eby and Brian Failing!

Naperville North Teacher, Kermit Eby, and Museum Curator, Brian Failing, will give you a crash course on the history of Chicago. From the time of its discovery by Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet, Chicago has proved to be an ever changing, ever evolving city that has grown from a mud hole to a metropolis. Chicago was the first of many ideas and industries that proved that you must go big or not at all.

**Kermit Eby** graduated from UIC with a MA in history. Eby then went on to teach high school history in Chicago for four years before he moved to Naperville North in 1984 where he continues to teach. Eby has always had a love for Chicago and can trace his Chicago heritage back to 1892 when his Great Grand Uncle studied at the University of Chicago. His love, which some would classify to be an obsession, is clear when you walk into his classroom and see his extensive collection of books circling his room.

Five years ago, Eby created the Urban Studies class which exposes students to a world outside of their comfort zone. Focusing on Chicago, the class teaches students about everything from Chicago’s discovery to modern day problems the city is facing. Eby feels that the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive.

**Brian Failing** has been the Lisle Depot Museum’s curator since the summer of 2009. Failing, a Lisle native, graduated from Naperville North this past spring and is currently a student at North Central College. He has had a passion for local history as well as American history for the majority of his high school career. He feels that this series will reveal that every story is multifaceted, and Chicago’s story is no exception.
Author of the Images of America Series book, *The Chicago Music Scene: 1960s & 1970s*, Dean Milano was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin but moved to the Chicago area in 1964, just in time for arrival of the Beatles and the subsequent forming of garage bands on every block of every city across the country. And of course, Dean jumped into the fray and never looked back.

Milano has played at one time or another in nearly 75 bands over a 43 year long career that encompasses his love of rock and roll, folk music, country and western, bluegrass, jazz, Cajun music, show tunes and every other type of music he heard along the way. During his time in Lisle, he will share some of his experiences, play a couple of tunes, and give you some insight into what the music scene was like in the 60s and 70s.

Milano also has an interest in things nostalgic and several years ago, opened an antique toy museum in Elmhurst, Illinois, where he presently lives. He currently makes his living buying and selling antique toys when he’s not hauling his guitar off to another gig. He hopes his book will serve to bring some recognition to all the wonderful artists who filled Chicago with music during those incredible decades.

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**Saturday, September 25, 4pm: Perry R. Duis**

*Challenging Chicago: Coping with Everyday Life, 1837-1920*

Perry Duis is a Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Duis has authored several books including the works he will be discussing entitled *The Saloon: Public Drinking in Chicago and Boston* and *Challenging Chicago: Coping with Everyday Life 1837-1920*. In his talk about *Challenging Chicago*, he will touch on how average people survived day-to-day life during this crucial part of the city’s history.

Duis teaches courses in urban history as well as the history of illness and health in America and the history of the future. His books focus on urban social history, predominately in Chicago. In future projects, he plans to examine the rise of tourism, public expositions of technology, and the emerging image of the city. Duis will also have a picture slide show accompanying his talk.
Saturday, October 2, 12pm: Jo Fredell Higgins
*Naperville, Illinois*

Internationally published and award-winning author, historian, essayist, photographer, poet and teacher, Jo Fredell Higgins will talk about her Images of America Series book, *Naperville, Illinois*.

In addition to *Naperville, Illinois*, Higgins has published three other books in the series including *Geneva, Dekalb*, and *Aurora*. Higgins was chosen as a YWCA “Woman of Distinction” in 2004. In 2007, she retired from Waubonsee Community College after 21 years of leadership with the Adult Literacy Project. Her fifth book *A Song for Cecilia* will be released in Spring 2011. Higgins’ presentation will include a discussion of her book and a presentation of pictures featured in her book.

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Saturday, October 2, 4pm: Mark M. Quinn
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*The Chairman: A Novel of Big City Politics*

Naperville local and Columbia College teacher, Mark Quinn grew up in a machine-dominated ward on the south side of Chicago and his book isn’t shy about showing that. Quinn recently published his first book, *The Chairman: A Novel of Big City Politics* and will be sharing his story as well as the story he portrays in his book about Chicago politics during the “Daley Machine” era.

Quinn has written extensively on local and national politics as well as organized crime. His background in economics and finance has provided him a well-honed ability to follow the money and thus get to the very heart of his subjects. The purveyor of an eclectic blog situated at www.insightfulpontificator.blogspot.com, Quinn has also won a number of short fiction prizes, notably from Writers’ Journal and Writer’s Digest. Quinn hopes to have his sequel to *The Chairman* released this summer.
Saturday, October 9, 12pm: Dominic A. Pacyga

*Chicago: A Biography*

Dominic Pacyga received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1981. He has authored many books concerning Chicago’s history. His most recent book, *Chicago: A Biography* will be the topic of discussion. He has lectured widely on topics ranging from urban development, residential architecture, labor history, immigration, and racial and ethnic relations and has appeared in both the local and national media.

Pacyga has been a member of the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department at Columbia College Chicago since 1984. He has worked with various museums, including the Chicago Historical Society, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Field Museum in Chicago on a variety of public history projects. In 1999, he received the Columbia College Award for Excellence in Teaching. Pacyga has been a Visiting Professor at both the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pacyga’s talk promises to give a vast insight into the overall history of the city. There will be pictures that accompany Pacyga’s presentation to illustrate his discussion.

Saturday, October 9, 4pm: Karen Kruse

*A Chicago Firehouse: Stories of Wrigleyville’s Engine 78*

Karen Kruse is the author of *A Chicago Firehouse: Stories of Wrigleyville’s Engine 78.* It’s the story of the quaint firehouse located across from Wrigley Field, where her father served the first 14 years of his 30-year fire fighting career. The book was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in History and Mike Ditka provided the foreword. It includes chapters on the Wrigleyville neighborhood, Wrigley Field, Graceland Cemetery (in 78’s district), the Civilian’s Guide to Fire Fighting and much more!

Kruse is a member of Mensa and has written for both their local and national publications. Kruse enjoys talking about her book and teaching others about this station’s extensive history. As she discusses her book, Kruse will also share many personal mementos and pictures from her travels to the station.
Saturday, October 16, 12pm: Ann Durkin Keating
Chicagoland: City & Suburbs in the Railroad Age

Ann Keating has been teaching at North Central College for 19 years. She is the author of several books on Chicago as well as a renowned professor. Keating will talk about one of her latest books, *Chicagoland: City & Suburbs in the Railroad Age*. She has also authored *Building Chicago: Suburban Developers and the Creation of a Divided Metropolis* and is the coeditor of the print and electronic *Encyclopedia of Chicago*.

Along with being an important Chicago historian, Keating also does a lot of work with Naper Settlement and their efforts. Keating, one of the most knowledgeable Chicago historians, will be discussing her books and providing a presentation.

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Saturday, October 16, 4pm: Carolyn Eastwood
Near West Side Stories: Struggles for Community in the Maxwell Street Neighborhood

Author Carolyn Eastwood received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, an M.A. in Anthropology from Northern Illinois University, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis from the University of Illinois at Chicago with the dissertation, *A Study of the Regulation of Chicago’s Street Vendors*. Join us as she talks about her book, *Near West Side Stories: Struggles for Community in the Maxwell Street Neighborhood*.

Eastwood was born in Ohio and grew up in Detroit, but she has lived many years with her husband and four children in Glen Ellyn, IL. After her college years, she lived in Holland, France, England, and Washington D.C. and traveled to cities in many other countries. Throughout her travels, she retained an interest in markets, vendors and ethnic occupations in low-income communities. She formerly taught in the Wheaton Public Schools and is an adjunct professor of Anthropology at the College of DuPage and Roosevelt University. Not only will she provide history about Maxwell Street through talking about her book, she will also display many pictures she has taken of the market.
Author Liam Ford is a fifth-generation Chicagoan. He joined the City News Bureau in 1998, and in his time here has covered housing, politics, regional development, and the Chicago Park District for the Chicago Tribune.

Ford will talk about his book Soldier Field: A Stadium and its City. By doing so he will give listeners a history of Soldier Field and how it came to be. His presentation will also include pictures of the stadium through the years.

Ursula Bielski has authored numerous books relating to the supernatural and hauntings in the Chicagoland area. Ursula holds a B.A. in history from Benedictine University and an M.A. in American cultural and intellectual history from Northeastern Illinois University. Join us as she explores the supernatural in her latest book There’s Something Under the Bed: Children’s Experiences with the Paranormal. She is the founder of Chicago Hauntings, Inc.

A historian, author, and parapsychology enthusiast, she has been writing and lecturing about Chicago’s supernatural folklore and the paranormal for nearly 20 years, and is recognized as a leading authority on the Chicago region’s ghost lore and cemetery history. Aside from her writing, Ursula has been featured on numerous television documentaries, including productions by The History Channel and PBS. Start Halloween a week early and enjoy some great ghost stories of our area!
Saturday, October 30, 12pm: Bryan W. Alaspa

*Chicago Disasters*

Bryan Alaspa has had a love and passion for writing from a young age. Shortly after college he published his first book and has published a handful since. One of his most recent books talks about many of the disasters that have faced the city of Chicago throughout its history.

Alaspa has written many works both fiction and non-fiction, as well as articles, columns and reviews for various print and online publications. Join us as he talks about his *Chicago Disasters* book, describing many of the tragedies our city has faced. One day he hopes to write the definitive book on Chicago.

Saturday, October 30, 4pm:
Joseph P. Schwieterman and Alan P. Mammoser

*Beyond Burnham: An Illustrated History of Planning for the Chicago Region*

Join us as coauthors Joe Schwieterman and Alan Mammoser talk about their book *Beyond Burnham: An Illustrated History of Planning for the Chicago Region*. Many books talk about Burnham and his plan, but this book is different as it combines many details and pictures to illustrate Burnham’s vision of Chicago.

Joe is professor a in the School of Public Service at De Paul University. He is heard frequently on WBBM radio and National Public Radio programs discussing transportation. While his partner, Alan, a Chicago-based writer and regional planner, has written numerous articles on urban and environmental issues. He worked for six years at the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. Their presentation will combine a presentation of pictures as well as a discussion of their book to bring greater meaning to Burnham’s plan.

A noted speaker, Smith has appeared on WGN-TV, Chicago Public Radio, Fox News, WGN Radio and the History Channel. He is a 2003 graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he was also an accomplished track and field athlete. Smith lives in the Chicago area with his wife and dog.

Smith guides readers into the closed-door society that is the Chicago Police Department. In his compelling debut work, he will share never-before-told stories of the tolls the job exacts on the officers and their lives while interweaving a discussion of Chicago’s criminal landscape, police department culture and history.

In 2000, Sean Parnell created www.chicagobarproject.com to honor this great city’s watering holes by writing about them only as a local can, as well as to rationalize his drinking habits. Since then, Parnell has written bar reviews for *Esquire Magazine*, *Time Out* and About.com; led historic pub crawls for the Chicago History Museum; and has traveled the globe in search of the world’s best pubs. Raise a glass as he takes you through the history of the bars in his debut book, *Historic Bars of Chicago*, released this past summer.

When he’s not reviewing bars, Parnell is president of Innovaxis Marketing Consulting, which creates strategic marketing plans and implements them for technology start-ups, family businesses, Fortune 500 companies, and other businesses seeking growth. As well as providing history, Parnell’s presentation will include pictures of the many bars he has reviewed.
Saturday November 13, 12pm: James Ballowe
Christmas in Illinois

James Ballowe is a Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Bradley University in Peoria. He also taught at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where he received his M. A. and Ph.D., and at Millikin University in Decatur where he received his B.A. Ballowe has written several books, including *A Man of Salt and Trees: The Life of Joy Morton*.

Throughout his career, he has served on many panels and has earned many honors for his literary works. He will talk about his most recent book, *Christmas in Illinois*, that will show readers the evolution of Christmas traditions throughout Illinois. Get in the holiday spirit as we take a trip down memory lane while we discuss the book and view pictures of the many traditions.

Saturday, November 13, 4pm: Troy Taylor
Chicago Murder and Mayhem Series

Troy Taylor is a crime buff, supernatural historian and the author of more than 70 books on ghosts, hauntings, history, crime and the unexplained in America. He is also the founder of the American Ghost Society and the owner of the American Hauntings Tour Company. Taylor shares a birthday with one of his favorite authors, F. Scott Fitzgerald, but instead of living in New York and Paris like Fitzgerald, Taylor grew up in Illinois. Raised on the prairies, he developed an interest in “things that go bump in the night” at an early age, and as a young man began developing ghost tours and writing about hauntings and crime in Chicago and Central Illinois. His writings have now taken him all over the country and into some of the most far-flung corners of the world. Taylor has appeared in a number of documentary films, several television series and in one feature film about the paranormal. When not traveling, he resides in Chicago. Troy will talk about one of his murder series, *Chicago: Murder and Mayhem*, as well as some of his haunting books.
Saturday, December 11, 12pm: Joni Hirsch Blackman
Downtown Naperville, Illinois

Joni Blackman has lived in Naperville since 1993 and has written about it since 1997 in her newspaper column, Cul-de-sacs, which ran in the Naperville Sun and the Daily Herald. Blackman continues to write online at www.culdesacs.net. Even in the short time she has lived in the historic community, she has seen many changes in downtown and she wanted to help document them for future residents. Blackman earned her journalism degree from the University of Arizona. She has been a broadcast desk staffer for the Associated Press, a staff reporter for the Denver Post, a stringer for Time and People magazines and has been published in newspapers such as USA Today and the Chicago Tribune. Joni will join us to talk about and show pictures of her Images of America series book, Downtown Naperville, Illinois.

Saturday, December 11, 4pm:
Rick Kogan & Charles Osgood
Sidewalks & Sidewalks 2

Our 2010 Chicago History Author Series will conclude with WGN Radio host of the Sunday papers and Chicago Tribune senior writer and columnist, Rick Kogan. He has published several books, his most current combining his many articles into two stunning works, Sidewalks and Sidewalks 2. Born, raised and still living in Chicago, Kogan has worked for the Chicago Daily News, Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune.

Named Chicago’s Best Reporter in 1999 and inducted into the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame in 2003, some of his other books include; Everybody Pays: Two Men, One Murder and The Price of Truth (with Maurice Possley), America’s Mom: The Life, Lesson and Legacy of Ann Landers, and A Chicago Tavern, the history of the Billy Goat. His Sidewalk books are embellished by the work of photographer Charles Osgood who has partnered with Kogan since 1998. When Kogan asked him if he wanted to help him with a column for which they went out and found their own stories, he couldn’t have been more delighted. He has found it fulfilling on many levels and is inspired by the hunt for stories of fascinating people and places in all corners of the city and the greater Chicago area.
Lisle Heritage Society and Lisle Park District present

26th Annual Lisle Depot Days 2010

FREE ADMISSION
Sat. & Sun., Sep. 18 & 19, 11am-5pm

Featuring Live Music, Craft Show, Pioneer Demonstrations & More!

The Museums at Lisle Station Park
921 School Street, Lisle IL 60532
Call 630-964-3410 | LisleParkDistrict.org

FREE old fashioned holiday fun for the whole family!
Enjoy pie baking, hay rides, blacksmithing, games and more!

Sat., Dec. 4, 3-8pm & Sun., Dec. 5, 12-5pm
The Museums at Lisle Station Park | 921 School Street, Lisle IL 60532
Call 630-964-3410 | LisleParkDistrict.org

Once Upon a Christmas

The Museums at Lisle Station Park Blog
http://www.lislemuseum.wordpress.com

Check out our new blog! Read up on upcoming events, book reviews, Lisle and Chicago history, and general news about the Museums at Lisle Station Park.