

EXPERIENCE *the Nineteenth*



Humanities and Enrichment Series Programs


The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association
Learning, Giving, and Sharing

178 Forest Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60301

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Monday Luncheons (Reservations Only)

Our Executive Chef Woody Linton and staff prepare and serve a three-course meal on Mondays at noon. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for check-in and socializing. If you have dietary restrictions, note them when you make your reservation or tell someone in our Main Office no later than the Friday before.

Reservations: Members and their guests \$25, Non-members \$30

Reservations can be made online, in the office, or over the phone (cash, check, or credit card). Prepayment is required.

Parking

Nearby street parking is frequently available. Be sure to note the street signage for maximum time allowed. Parking is also available in two nearby parking garages—Lake and Forest (next door) or Holley Court (two blocks west). Check signs for current rates. The only spots available in the open parking lot next to the building are the ones marked Visitor.

Welcome



WELCOME to the 2023–2024 season of Monday Enrichment Programs, presented by The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association! This season’s collection of thirty educational and cultural programs in Art, Literature, Music, Science, and Social Science will expand your horizons with fascinating and entertaining presentations by artists, authors, musicians, scientists, poets, dancers, historians, and museum curators.

Our five subject matter committees have worked diligently to assemble an eclectic variety of diverse speakers and performers. Our goal is to engage both NCCA members and the public with musical interludes, thought-provoking information and stories, and newer scientific analyses.

Unable to attend in person every Monday? Most programs will be live-streamed or recorded and available on the NCCA website. Visit www.nineteenthcentury.org for details.

The Nineteenth offers so many ways to learn, to be entertained, and to be involved! “Henry Fogel Presents” returns with three special evening programs of music and conversation; see page 12 for details. The Free Readers Ensemble brings diverse theatrical and literary material to our stage; the complete schedule can be found on page 14. Occasional “Wednesday Wisdom” afternoon programs by local presenters focus on topics of interest to the community; check the website to see when one is scheduled.

All programs are open to the community, and if you love what you see or are intrigued by what you hear, please consider supporting our charitable and cultural activities by becoming a member. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Debb Hammond and Mary Ann Porucznik

Humanities & Enrichment Programs

Monday Afternoons at 1:15 p.m.

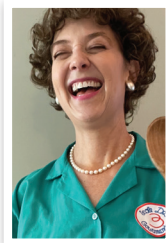
Open to All. Suggested donation: \$15.00 (Free to members)



October 2 – Music

Chicago Is My Kind of Town!

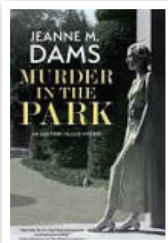
Kick off the year with songs from the Great American Songbook—the music of Frank Sinatra, Nat “King” Cole, and Broadway. The talented duo of **Alex Newkirk** and **Evan Tyrone Martin** will be accompanied by pianist **Chris Sargent**.



October 9—Social Science:

Julia Child

Before the Food Network, most Americans knew only one famous television chef: Julia Child. Actress and scholar **Leslie Goddard** brings Child to life in this portrayal, discussing everything from her relationship with her husband to the mishaps of cooking on live television. Bon Appetit!



October 16—Literature

Why Oak Park?

Jeanne Dams has 36 books in her 3 cozy mystery series set in England, South Bend, Indiana, and Oak Park. She'll share how she pulled elements of Oak Park's rich history together into *Murder in the Park*, *Music and Murder*, and the third in the series (just begun).



October 23—Science

The Meaning of Darkness: How Light at Night Has Transformed Our World

Seventy percent of mammal species are nocturnal and require the night to survive. Humans need the night to revive. **Ken Walczak** of the Adler Planetarium will examine the impact of altering the day/night cycle on our health, safety, ecology, environment, and future.



October 30—Art

Cemetery Art

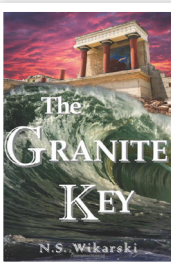
Join Lee Conte, cochair for The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest annual “Tale of the Tombstones” cemetery walk, for a presentation on the ornate and the unexpected art found in our local cemeteries, including Forest Home, Concordia, and Waldheim Cemeteries.



November 6—Music

Rise Up! Truth to Power!

The Governors State University Dance Company explores and expresses themes related to social justice. With original choreography by GSU faculty, students and alumni, Rise Up! features provocative performances that defy classification and explore topics such as environmental destruction, breaking generational curses, abuse of power, and mental health.



November 13—Literature

Lost Civilizations: The World Before Patriarchy

Nancy Wikarski’s Arkana Archeology Mysteries use a fictional treasure hunt to highlight real archeological evidence of sophisticated ancient civilizations all around the planet that predate patriarchy. The author will discuss the evolution of patriarchy and alternative models of gender-balanced social organization that once served humanity well and might do so again.



November 20—Social Science

Betty Friedan: Magnificent Disrupter

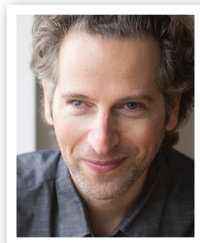
Author Rachel Shteir shares the story of the Magnificent Disrupter, Betty Friedan, chronicling her accomplishments and failures. She uses archival sources, digitized newspapers, and interviews to tell stories about Friedan’s Jewish Midwestern childhood, her arguments with feminists—Jewish and otherwise—her evolving Jewish identity, her Zionism, and her tumultuous marriage.



November 27—Art

Graffiti as an Art Form

Dulce Maria Diaz will take us on a journey through Chicago style-writing graffiti, art history, introducing us to the pioneers of the movement. She will explain why this art form has served as a healing tool in ways that no other form has been able.



December 4—Literature

Learning to See

Author Howard Axelrod in a personal, informed conversation with Northwestern's Amy Danzer on how digital life shapes the way we see. How are our smartphones affecting us? Our perception? Our ability to pay attention, connect, empathize?



December 11—Science

Tall Timber, A Revolution in the Building Industry

Mass timber promises to be a critical building component for cities of the near future. Dr. Antony Wood, president of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, will make the case for using timber, including its relatively light weight and great strength.



December 18—Music

Singers from the Lyric Celebrate Christmas

Experience the perfect blend of classical charm and holiday cheer with a performance featuring four of our favorite Lyric Opera singers. Tenor John Concepcion returns to the Nineteenth with colleagues soprano Kim Jones, bass David Govertsen, mezzo-soprano Yvette Smith, and pianist William Billingham. Don't miss this sensational celebration of music, where the grandeur of opera meets the magic of the holiday season.



January 2, 2024—Scholarship—12 Noon

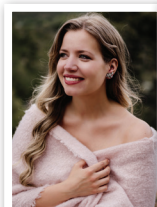
Join the Scholarship Committee for lunch as it hosts the annual reception for present and recent past scholarship recipients and family members. These students are bright and forthright and will engage and entertain with their tales about college, their aspirations, and their challenges. They will be presented second semester checks.



January 8—Social Science

Chicago's West Loop, Then and Now

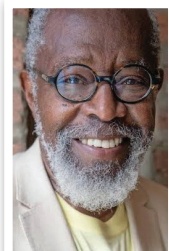
The West Loop was once a manufacturing and wholesale warehouse area and is now the home of corporate and union headquarters, as well as home to hundreds of Chicagoans. Author Connie Fairbanks introduces us to the pioneers of then and now, the variety of businesses located there, and the eye-catching architectural wonders of the West Loop.



January 15—Music

Musicians from Northwestern's Bienen School of Music Delight You

Soprano Regina Ceragioli, mezzo-soprano Michelle Mariposa, tenor Aaron Short, baritone David Wolfe, and pianist Chuck Foster all studied at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. Their performance today will feature music from several different genres, sure to delight you!



January 22—Literature

Ecology of the Mind

"The eye is not filled with seeing, with only seeing, but with understanding the sight," writes Ed Roberson in his 2021 collection *Asked What Has Changed*. In this reading and discussion, Roberson will present poems that show how thought, feeling, and experience come sharply into focus when we view them through nature.



January 29—Art

Museum Made, the Rise of America's Art Museums

Learn how America's art museums—through timing, luck, and lots of money—became international leaders of the world's best art collections. Curator and consultant Paul Neumann will uncover how museums grew to become America's cultural guardians.



February 5—Science

From 5,000 Years of Eating Bread to “Gluten-Free”

Dr. Warren Porter will show how everything is interconnected—and how “generic” pesticides can modify reproduction, sex behavior, learning, immune function, and genetic expression, as well as induce chronic diseases. He will also present some safe, effective, and inexpensive solutions to the problems currently being generated.



February 12—Music:

With Love, The Three Baritones

It's February in Chicago, and love is in the air! Warm up with the sultry voices of The Three Baritones—Evan Bravos, Nicholas Ward, and Nathan Stark, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Gmeinder—as they present a smattering of operatic arias, Broadway favorites, and croony standards from the 19th—and 20th—centuries.



February 19—Literature

Why Bookstores Matter in the 21st Century

What makes a good 21st century bookstore, and do we need them? Author and bookseller Jeff Deutsch discusses one of our most important and endangered civic institutions, drawing on his lifelong experiences as a bookseller and his upbringing as an Orthodox Jew.



February 26—Social Science

Bubbles and Boxes, An Inquiry into Race and Identity

Author Molly Surowitz is passionate about making a difference and has been recognized for her commitment to fair housing. As a white woman who grew up in a predominantly black neighborhood in Detroit, she reflects on race and identity in this one-woman show.



March 4—Science

Identifying Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is here to stay. Jennifer Heimberg, a trained scientist but not an AI researcher, will attempt to review the various types of AI—deep learning and generative AI—and what indicators one might look for to trust the results.



March 11—Literature

Radical Ideas! Women and The Vote

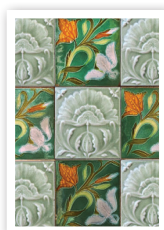
Written and directed by Mary Bonnett, this table reading follows the journey of three Illinois suffragists, Grace Wilbur Trout, Catherine McCullough, and Ida B. Wells, who fought for the vote and the ratification of the 19th Amendment in Illinois. These three distinct personalities with very different approaches banded together to form a powerful united front in fighting for equality in a day when little was offered for women.



March 18—Music

Irish Stew, Songs and Stories from Old Ireland

Come enjoy a peek into rural life in Ireland in the early 20th century. Along with some of beautiful Irish songs, Gerry Dignan will share quirky, humorous, and poignant stories giving Irish Americans and their friends an idea of the world of their ancestors.



March 25—Art

Art Nouveau 101

The Art Nouveau design movement represented a new aesthetic for a modern world. Architectural historian Kathleen Murphy Skolnick will explore the origins of Art Nouveau, its varying visual manifestations, and examples of Art Nouveau in architecture and the decorative arts.



April 1—Social Science

A Brief History of the Reintroduction of Native Americans to Illinois

Ho-Chunk Ska Ga (Chief White Winnebago) talks about his family's relocation from the reservation to the Illinois valley. He discusses his upbringing in the Ho-Chunk tribal ways, providing a brief history of the tribe, as well as cultural ceremonies.



April 8—Science

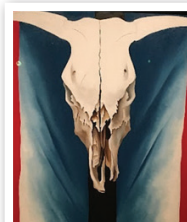
Mammalian Diversity in the Philippines

The Philippine Islands have the greatest concentration of unique mammals of any country—from giant and tiny bats to striped “earth mice” and soft-furred hedgehogs. Lawrence Heaney explores the geological history, geography, and conservation.



April 15—Presentation of the 2023/2024 Scholarship Awards—12 Noon

Meet our newest scholarship recipients—hear about the motivation, dreams, and aspirations that have led these extremely accomplished OPRFHS seniors to choose the educational paths they will follow. This event is an inspiration to all!



April 22—Art

Georgia O'Keeffe, An American Original

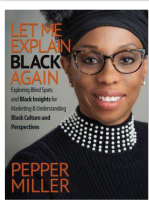
Georgia O'Keeffe's career spanned seven decades and produced works known and loved by large audiences today. Margaret Farr, PhD, will examine O'Keeffe's creative output from her early charcoal abstractions through her late-career explorations of pottery.



April 29—Literature

Blending Fiction with History: The Sinking of the S.S. Eastland

Bram Stoker Award-winning author Cynthia Pelayo will discuss her recent release, *Forgotten Sisters*, and how she incorporates history into her genre-blending fiction. The focus of the discussion will revolve around the 1915 sinking of the S.S. Eastland, and how this event features prominently in the novel.



May 6—Social Science

Let Me Explain Black Again

Author Pepper Miller doesn't give a speech as much as she opens a dialogue. By blending insights, experiences, and passion, Miller offers a deeper and more intimate look at the evolving concept of what it means to be Black in America.



May 13—Music

The Creation of "Chicago!"

Chicago native Bob Fosse shaped the musical "Chicago!" with the show's musical numbers a pastiche of vaudeville performers or acts. Broadway musical historian Charles Troy shares the originals, the songs they inspired, and stories about 1920s Chicago and author Maurine Watkins.



Please join us

At the Nineteenth Century
Charitable Association's
Around the World Gala
on Saturday, April 6, 2024!

Evening and Weekend Events

Dates and times vary; some events may require reservations and/or tickets. Please check specific event details for complete instructions.



Henry Fogel Presents...

Evenings of great music and conversation. A series of informal music gatherings between 60 and 70 minutes; afterwards, the audience is invited to engage with the performers and Mr. Fogel.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m. Henry Fogel Presents programs are free and open to the public; donations are welcome.



October 11, 2023—Jooyoung Kim

Pianist Jooyoung Kim, a native of South Korea, has been critically acclaimed on international stages for her technique, musicianship, and artistry. Since her debut at age 12 as a soloist, she has performed around the world. Her passion for contemporary music has led her to collaborations with composers.



March 13, 2024—Yuri Tanaka

Yuri Tanaka has been recognized for her talent internationally, a prize winner at many competitions. She has been lauded in both her native Japan and the United States for her piano performances, particularly for her sensitive interpretations of Chopin. She has performed as a soloist with the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, broadcast by the NHK.



May 1, 2024—Susan Nigro

Chicago native and contrabassoonist, Susan Nigro received bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University, and an additional graduate degree from Roosevelt University. Her orchestral training took place in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and she received three orchestral fellowships at the Tanglewood Music Center—where she was awarded the Henry B. Cabot Prize.

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

Enjoy cookies and cocoa, arts and crafts, and shopping for gifts and artisan crafts. Bring your camera for photos with Santa!

Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5/person; \$20/family

Payment taken at the door



The Annual OPRE High School Swing Dance

Boogie to the beat of the Oak Park River Forest High School's award-winning Jazz Ensemble. This all-ages, family-friendly event is open to the public. Tickets are available at the door. Proceeds are used to fund scholarships for students attending summer jazz camps and programs.

Friday, April 19, 2024 7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Admission: Students up to 17: \$5.00

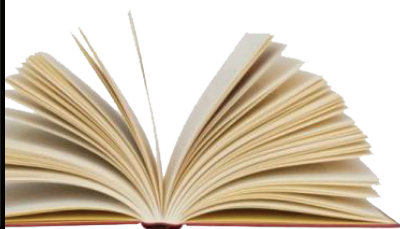


Free Readers Ensemble

Programs are Sundays, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Doors open at 2:45 p.m.



Celebrating our
30th
SEASON



The Free Readers Ensemble (FRE) is an actor-based ensemble whose mission is to present diverse theatrical and literary material in a reader's theater format to Oak Park/River Forest and the surrounding communities. Through voice and dramatic interpretation, FRE brings a world of literature to life while achieving a high standard of consistently entertaining and thought-provoking performances. All programs are free to the public; free-will donations are appreciated and help cover costs. For more information, visit www.freereaders.com

2023-2024 Season Schedule

October 15—**The Haunting of Hill House**

November 19—**Crossing Delancey**

December 17—**Free Readers Holiday Variety Show**

January 21—**Blizzard '67**

February 18—**Romance in D**

March 17—**Collected Stories**

April 21—**Angel Street (Gaslight)**

May 19—**Sylvia**

The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association, from its founding, brought cultural and educational programs to our communities. Members founded, worked in, and supported many social agencies and charities in the area. We continue to partner and work with local organizations, and to support them by sharing our building. We annually fund 16 renewable college scholarships for graduates of OPRF High School and raise funds for jazz band summer camp scholarships. Our Monday Enrichment Programs are open to the public. Please join us for these wonderful programs.

Debb Hammond and Mary Ann Porucznik, Program Co-directors

Art: Marie Kruse and Pam Doman, Co-chairs; Judy Das Gupta, Jana McIlroy

Literature: Debb Hammond, Chair; Linda Bonner, Vicki Bartlett, Laretta Christensen, Hope Hommersand, Carol MacDonald, Chris Majkrzak

Music: Diane Moses, Chair; Peggy Conlon-Madigan, Robyn D'Alba, Joan Greene, Lyn Rains, Dorothy Rog, Carolyn Skipper

Science: Susan Roberts, Chair; Judy Wright Bowker, Mike Bowker, Ralph Lee, Peggy McGrath, Mila Tellez, Phyllis Wendel

Social Science: Judy Eckberg, Chair; Val Abatangelo, Jackie Eckholm, Peggy Conlon-Madigan, Carolyn Skipper, Judy Sora, Linda Tibensky, Diana Wilkens

Mission & Diversity Statement



The mission of the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association is to strengthen our community through learning, giving, and sharing our landmark building.

The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association welcomes members of diverse cultures, faiths, genders, orientations, and abilities. We make a point to celebrate differences and respect each other's unique perspectives. Membership is open to anyone who wants to support our mission, regardless of income. For more information, contact the office at 708-386-2729.

EXPERIENCE

the Nineteenth

Season Sponsors



Nancy DeSombre

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Lois Pye
Lynn Rains
Dorothy Rog

Nineteenth Century Charitable Association is partially funded by the Oak Park Area Arts Council, in partnership with the Village of Oak Park, the Illinois Arts Council Agency and the National Endowment for the Arts.