

EXPERIENCE the Nineteenth

Humanities and Enrichment Series Programs
2024-2025




The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association
— Learning, Giving, Sharing —

178 Forest Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60301

Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Enrichment & Humanities Programs	4
Cookies & Cocoa With Santa	14
Annual OPRFHS Swing Dance	14
The Free Readers Ensemble	15
Mission & Diversity Statement	15
Sponsors	Back Cover

Monday Luncheons (Reservations Only)

Our Executive Chef Marcel Dukes 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 & 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 to the Nineteenth!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 season of Monday Enrichment Programs of the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association, which are presented as part of our vision to be a dynamic cultural center for community learning. From October through May, this season's collection of educational and cultural programs in Art, Literature, Music, Science and Social Science features a diverse set of presenters including artists, museum curators, authors, musicians and vocalists, scientists, professors and historians. Our goal is to engage both members and the public with absorbing discussions, thought-provoking information and/or analysis, fascinating stories, and musical interludes leading to opportunities for life-long learning.

Unable to attend in person every Monday? Most Enrichment programs are live-streamed, recorded and available on the Nineteenth's website for later viewing. Depending upon presenter consent, those recorded may be available until the end of 2025, or longer on our website. Visit www.nineteenthcentury.org for details.

The Nineteenth offers so many ways to learn, to be entertained, and to be involved. The Free Readers Ensemble brings diverse theatrical and literary material to our stage; the complete schedule can be found on page 15. Occasional "Wednesday Wisdom" afternoon programs by local presenters focus on topics of interest and may occur throughout the year—check our monthly calendar. Summer programming includes series such as Monday Matinees, Wednesday Wisdom and Raining Pianos.

Our programs are open to the community, and if any of them intrigue you, don't hesitate to attend. Consider supporting our charitable, educational and cultural activities by making a donation or by becoming a member. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Debb Hammond and Mary Ann Porucznik
Co-Directors, Programming

Humanities and Enrichment Series Programs

Monday Afternoons at 1:15 pm

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



October 7—Literature *Meet Mamah*

Elizabeth Carlson, also known as Ellie, likes to say that thirteen women live inside her. We will meet one of them, Mamah Bouton Borthwick, who was brutally murdered in August 1914 at Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin, the home she shared with Frank Lloyd Wright. In death as in life, Mamah struggles to understand the circumstances of her relationships and how a woman's own desires can be reconciled to the larger goals of womankind and society at large.



October 14—Music *Ultimate Jazz*

Born on Chicago's West Side, **Dee Alexander** is one of the city's most gifted and respected vocalist/songwriters. Her talents span every musical genre, from Gospel to R&B, Blues to Neo-Soul. Yet her true heart and soul are experienced in their purest form through Jazz. **Jeremy Kahn** is one of Chicago's busiest pianists, dividing his time between Jazz venues, pit orchestras, and recording and teaching studios.



October 21—Art *American Impressionism*

American Impressionist painters were influenced by and indebted to the French masters, but also forged their own individual and national artistic identities. **David Sokol**, Professor Emeritus of Art History at the University of Illinois, Chicago, returns to our stage to introduce us to this unique group of American artists.



October 28—Social Science

LWVOPRF: A Century of Community Engagement

The League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest has always had a special relationship with the Nineteenth. Many women were members of both. As the League celebrates its centennial, historian **Mary Ann Porucznik** shares stories of these women and the impact they have had on our communities.



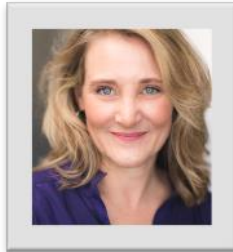
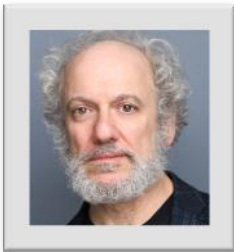
November 4—Science

When Life Changes: Sleep & Neuroscience Hacks for Creating our Best Life

Finding the right perspective and energy to face life's powerful changes can be challenging. **Dove (Diane) Wilson**, a peak performance coach and psychotherapist, shares insights and tools to leverage the power of our brains and hearts to navigate these challenges and opportunities.



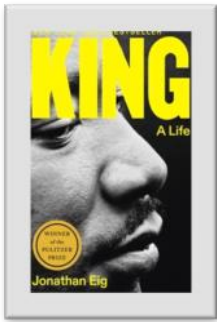
November 11—Veterans' Day Program, 10 am Special morning program led by Brian Flora.



November 11

Music—Sunrise, Sunset

Explore Jewish culture through song with vocalists **Mark David Kaplan** and **Amy Montgomery**, accompanied by **Jeremy Kahn** on piano. The music of Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick will feature songs from *The Rothschilds*, *Rags*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.



November 18—Literature

Beyond the Dream: The Real Martin Luther King, Jr

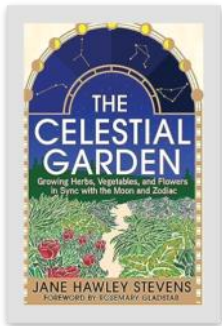
Jonathan Eig is the Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of *King: A Life*, which was also awarded the New York Historical Society’s 2024 Zalaznick Book Prize for biography or history, and was nominated for the National Book Award. His six books include four *New York Times* best sellers. *King* has been hailed as the “definitive” biography of Martin Luther King Jr.



November 25—Art

It’s a Small World

Do you love the Thorne Miniature Rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago? Member **Liza Prossnitz** has been enjoying and making miniatures for more than twenty years—as did her mother before her. Liza will share her love of miniatures and display her mother’s collection.



December 2—Science

Enhanced Wellbeing with Herbal Support, Tried and True, From the Beginning of Time, Now Scienced for You!

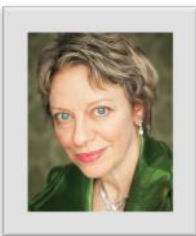
Although herbal medicine is mostly overlooked in mainstream healthcare, these remedies can support every body system. Learn from veteran herbalist and organic farmer **Jane Hawley Stevens** what Nature provides as effective herbal remedies. She will cover herbs that make a difference in positive outcomes, especially as we navigate through long dark winters.



December 9—Social Science

Our Town Oak Park: Walk with Me in Search of True Community

Award-winning *Wednesday Journal* columnist **Ken Trainor** has been writing about his hometown for the past 34 years, searching for, and finding, true community in our people, places and things. Join him for a long, leisurely walk through this remarkable village as he revisits the columns included in his new book. It will do you good and make you feel better about living here.



December 16—Music

Singers from the Lyric Celebrate the Season

Join **John Concepcion**, **Yvette Smith**, **Aaron Wardell**, **Kimberly Jones**, and **Lisa Kristina** in a lyrical tribute to the season of joy. It's a concert filled with charm, cheer, and classics both secular and sacred.



December 30—Scholarship Luncheon

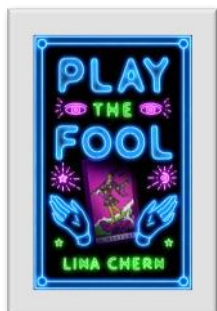
Join the Scholarship Committee for lunch and our annual reception for current and recent past scholarship recipients and their families, during which second semester checks will be presented. It's your opportunity to meet and engage with the students supported by your donations and to hear about their hopes, challenges, and achievements.



January 6—Art

Driehaus Museum—Past & Present

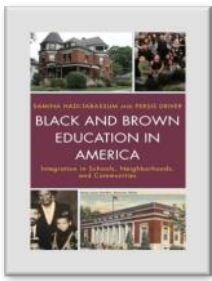
Join **Lisa Key**, Executive Director of the Driehaus Museum, for a fresh look at this Chicago landmark. The mission of the museum is to engage and inspire the global community through exploration and ongoing conversations in art, architecture, and design of the late 19th and early 20th centuries by presenting contemporary artists as well as highlighting the relevance of the art and design of the past.



January 13—Literature

Play the Fool: Tarot, Intuition and the Magic of Storytelling

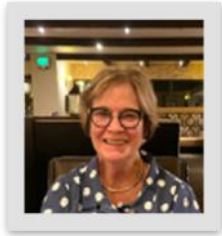
Are tarot cards “real”? Do they “work”? What do these questions even mean? Join **Lina Chern**, author of the Mary Higgins Clark Award-winning humorous mystery *Play the Fool*, the first in a new suspense mystery series. She will explore intuition, creativity, friendship, and the natural human drive to tell stories—even about ourselves.



January 20—Social Science

Black and Brown Education in America

Join **Drs. Samina Hadi-Tabassum** and **Persis Driver** to discuss integration in schools, neighborhoods and communities, with a particular focus on Maywood. Learn about the impact school systems, village governance and religious institutions have had on Maywood’s history over the last 100 years.



January 27—Science

How to Save the Planet and Save Money, Too

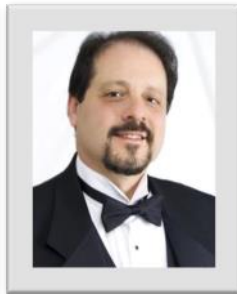
Pamela Tate, trained by Al Gore as a Certified Climate Reality Leader, will discuss the extent and impact of the worldwide climate emergency and how each of us can help solve this threat to our planet and all the species on it. Change at all levels is essential to truly address the magnitude of this climate crisis.

February 3—Music

From Paris To Chicago With Love



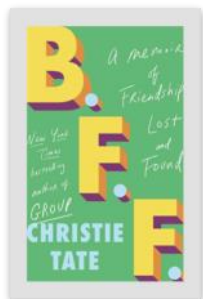
Soprano **Christine Steyer** will be joined by baritone **Carl Ratner** and collaborative pianist **Dana Brown** to present art songs and songs made famous by Josephine Baker. Music by French composers Gabriel Fauré, Claude Debussy and Erik Satie will be paired with American favorites by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, and George Gershwin.



February 10—Literature

It’s Never Too Late: Fixing Friendships in Midlife

Christie Tate knew how to ace final exams and soar through group therapy to straighten out her love life. But her friendships were a mess. Her books *Group* and *B.F.F.* discuss learning to break the habits that impair our ability to connect with others with humor and poignancy. She focuses on what happens when an older friend at a 12-step meeting invited her to work on friendships.

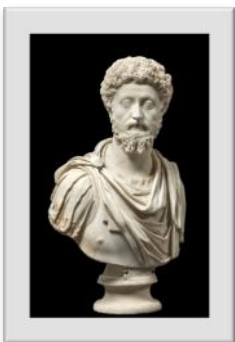




February 17—Social Science

Garfield 'L' to Blue Line Rapid Transit

With a 48-year career in transportation management, **David Wilson** tells the story of how the I-290 expressway and Blue Line 'L' came to be, providing convenient access to Chicago and points west. But excavating the trench and lowering the tracks took years of construction turmoil for Oak Park, Forest Park and Chicago residents.



February 24—Art

Ancient Roman Sculpture from the Torlonia Collection

Preview the March Art Institute exhibition of ancient Roman sculptures from the Torlonia Collection with **Jeffrey Nigro**, former Director of Adult Programs at the AIC. The Collection includes ancient sculptures excavated from the Torlonia estates and purchased from other noble Roman families. This preview includes masterpieces on view in the United States this year for the first time. (*Portrait of Marcus Aurelius, Torlonia Foundation, Rome, MT533*)



March 3—Science

Lightning: Beautiful but Deadly

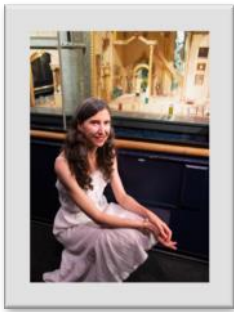
Mary Ann Cooper, an emergency physician by training, works with lightning researchers and safety activists worldwide to decrease deaths and injuries from lightning. She will discuss the science of lightning, common myths and superstitions, and what is being done to reduce lightning injuries and deaths.



March 10—Music

Celebrating the Music of Women

Violinist **Sara Su Jones** and pianist **Tatyana Stepanova**, duo partners for the past 16 years, present a concert featuring exquisite and rarely heard works, primarily by women. Longtime WFMT host **Dennis Moore**, along with the performers, will share insights into the works on the program.



March 17—Literature

The Original 'A Star Is Born'

Kathleen Rooney, author of *From Dust to Stardust*, shares silent film star Colleen Moore's story, bringing this artist back into the spotlight through her historical fiction. Moore created a unique dollhouse, which toured to raise money for children during the Great Depression, and later came to the Museum of Science and Industry as The Fairy Castle. The author shows how hope, wonder, cinema, philanthropy, and art can re-enchant a disenchanted world.



March 24—Art

A Most Generative Space: Chicago's African-American Studio Photographers

What role did photographers play in documenting the lives of African-Americans from the 1890s to the 1930s? **Dr. Amy Mooney** will share ongoing research into photographers who are virtually unknown today, but whose works became models of a collective racial consciousness.



March 31—Social Science

More than a Color: The Marginalization of African Beauty through History

Karen J. Anderson shares the history of women of African descent to help those affected by racism feel less marginalized. Her presentation examines how African-American women have been seen in society, art, history, and modern media, and shifts the narrative about beauty.



April 7—Science

Know Pain, Know Gain

Pain is a very complex human experience, which can sometimes protect us while other times limiting us. What happens within the body when we experience pain and how can long-lasting pain affect our nervous system and condition responses to pain? **Dr. Sean McNerney** will discuss these findings and how they are used in physical therapy to help people with pain.



April 14—Presentation of the 2024-2025 Scholarship Awards, 12 Noon

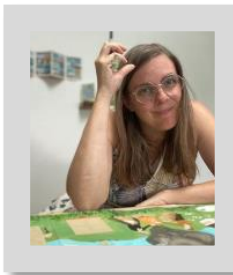
Meet our newest scholarship recipients and hear about their motivations, dreams, and aspirations. Learn about the educational paths chosen by these extremely accomplished OPRFHS students. Be inspired for the future!



April 21—Art

Gustave Caillebotte: Painting His World

A new exhibit, currently at the Musée d'Orsay, will open at the Art Institute in 2025. **Dr. Gloria Groom** will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the challenges in putting together an exhibition. She will explore the thesis of the exhibition and offer new insights into Caillebotte's sense of brotherhood—the importance of belonging that Caillebotte experienced with friends, family and others who made up his world.



April 28—Literature

Suffrage Song: The Haunted History of Gender, Race, and Voting Rights in America

Author and illustrator **Caitlin Cass** will discuss her graphic history, read excerpts from her book and share images from her process. A graduate of Oak Park River Forest High School, Cass is a cartoonist and installation artist who makes work about systemic failure and irrational hope. She self-publishes a bimonthly comic periodical called Great Moments in Western Civilization Postal Constituent.



May 4—Social Science: A Special SUNDAY Program

Evolution of Human Language, Aesthetics and Free Will

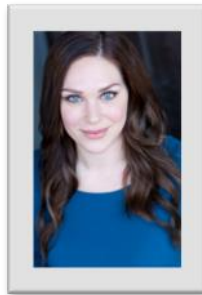
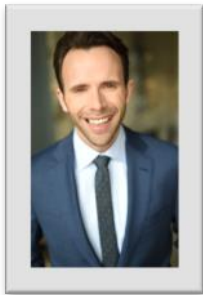
Jim Walters, a retired medical researcher and urologist who is intrigued by evolutionary psychology, has written and coauthored papers relating to the evolving area of research. He will discuss recent anthropological findings about hunter-gatherer societies as they relate to our psychological evolution.

Note: The Nineteenth Century Club will be used as an AP Exam site for Oak Park River Forest High School from May 5 to May 16. No enrichment programs or any other activities will be held in the building during this time.



May 19—Music
The Best of Broadway

Devin DeSantis and **Jacquelyne Jones**, accompanied by **JoAnn Daugherty** on piano, bring Broadway musicals to life. Join us for a “Best of Broadway” journey through favorite love songs.



Since its founding, the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association has brought cultural and educational programs to our communities. The depth, variety, and appeal of these programs depends on the contributions of the five program subcommittees—in Art, Literature, Music, Social Science and Science. We owe a debt of gratitude to these volunteers who reach out to presenters and performers and who help make Mondays at the Nineteenth the center of life-long learning. Program committees can always use your help—your ideas, your time, and your support. If you adore art, love literature, are mad about music, serious about social science, or steeped in science, consider contacting one of the chairs and volunteering!

ART: Pam Doman and Marie Kruse, co-chairs; Jana McIlroy

LITERATURE: Debb Hammond, chair; Vicki Bartlett, Linda Bonner, Lauretta Christensen, Hope Hommersand, Lauren Levrant, Chris Majkrzak

MUSIC: Diane Moses, chair; Robyn D’Alba, Joan Greene, Mary Alice Povolny, Lyn Rains, Dorothy Rog, Carolyn Skipper

SCIENCE: Susan Roberts, chair; Fran French, Peggy McGrath, Mila Tellez

SOCIAL SCIENCE: Judy Eckberg, chair; Val Abatangelo, Jackie Eckholm, Peggy Madigan, Carolyn Skipper, Judy Sora, Linda Tibensky, Diana Wilkens



This is Us!



2025 Gala
Save the Date
April 5, 2025




The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association
— Learning, Giving, Sharing —





Cookies & Cocoa with Santa!

Saturday, December 14, 10 am – 12 noon

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

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



The Annual OPRFHS Swing Dance

The award-winning High School Jazz Ensemble offers up an electrifying and professional program. Boogie to the beat of this all-ages, family-friendly event open to all!

Thursday, April 17, 7:30 pm

Admission: Students up to 17, \$5;
adults 18 & older, \$10

Tickets available at the door. Proceeds benefit band camp scholarships.



2024-2025 Seasons Schedule

October 27—*Angel Street (aka Gaslight)* by Patrick Hamilton

November 17—*Animal Farm* from the novel by George Orwell

December 1—*Dax & Abby* by Allan Baker

January 19—*The Gin Game* by D.L. Coburn

February 16—*Red* by John Logan

March 16—*A Thousand Clowns* by Herb Gardner

April 13—*Earth and Sky* by Douglas Post

June 1—*Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw

Programs are held on Sundays, beginning at 3 pm; doors open at 2:45 pm

The Free Readers Ensemble (FRE) is an actor-based ensemble whose mission is to present diverse theatrical and literary materials 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; donations are appreciated and help cover costs. For more information, visit www.freereaders.com

Mission & Diversity Statement:

Nineteenth Century Charitable Association

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 others' 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*

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Season Sponsor:



Ashland Vine
Senior Home Care

Category Sponsors:



Nancy & Eugene DeSombre (Music)

Ted & Joanne Despotes (Science)

MacDowell Artists Association (Music)

Steffl Plumbing (Social Science)

Program Sponsors:



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation

Bob Hammond; Lois Pye; Roberta Lyn Rains; Dorothy Rog

Program Supporters:



Robyn D'Alba; Joan Greene; Suzanne Helfrich;
Emily King; Diane Moses

The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association is partially funded by Cook County Arts, in partnership with Arts Alliance Illinois, and 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.



The Nineteenth Century Charitable Association
— Learning, Giving, Sharing —