

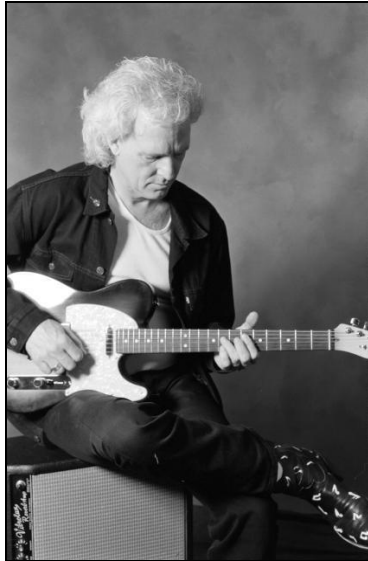
# Scholars on Call

An Affordable Speakers Bureau Designed for You



The Illinois Humanities Council's *Scholars on Call* offers entertaining, informative, and affordable programs to groups of any size. From presentations on food, fashion, and folk songs to learning about your own family tree, our seasoned presenters offer a diverse selection of programs that are sure to entertain and educate.

Since 1996, our speakers have performed for thousands of audiences at small nonprofit organizations throughout Illinois. We are now expanding the reach of this exceptional programming and offering it to you in our *Scholars on Call* Speakers Bureau.



## *Scholars on Call* provides:

- High-quality, reputable speakers who educate and entertain
- A single speaker or a speaker series customized for your community
- Programs lasting from an hour or two to a full day
- More than 50 subject areas, from food and folk songs to history and culture
- Affordable fees and service attentive to your needs
- A variety of programs that can be tailored to suit your needs and the needs of your audience.

**Bring your residents, patrons, clients, or employees a learning experience they will never forget!**

<http://www.prairie.org/ScholarsonCall> or 312.422.5580

Illinois Humanities Council



[www.prairie.org](http://www.prairie.org)

*The Illinois Humanities Council is dedicated to bringing people together to reflect, think critically, and actively exchange ideas. Organized in 1973 as the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the IHC is a private nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization supported by state, federal, and private funds.*

# *Scholars on Call Program List*

## **Sharon Alter** **Women in History**

Sharon Alter has taught History and Political Science for more than 30 years and is currently Professor Emeritus of History & Political Science at William Rainey Harper College. She holds an MA in History and is active in promoting the history of women and women in politics in the United States. She has won numerous awards for her teaching and research interests.



### **Programs available:**

- **Women Prime Ministers of the 20th Century**

20th Century women Prime Ministers have had unique styles of political leadership. This comparison of Corazon Aquino (Philippines), Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway), Indira Gandhi (India), Golda Meir (Israel), and Margaret Thatcher (Great Britain) examines the ways in which these leaders guided the domestic and international policies of their particular governments.

- **Three Wartime First Ladies: Madison, Lincoln, and Wilson**

America's First Ladies have never been without critics, though some have been more beloved or more controversial than others. Dolley Madison in the War of 1812, Mary Todd Lincoln in the Civil War, and Edith Wilson in World War I all the share the spotlight of visibility, renown, and controversy, as each coped with issues of war and support of the President. Join Sharon Alter as she compares and contrasts these fascinating female figures in American history.

- **First Ladies as Activists and Leaders**

First Ladies in modern times have never been a homogenous group. This presentation compares and contrasts the roles, trials and tribulations, and accomplishments of Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, and Hillary Rodham Clinton as First Ladies.

# Penelope Bingham

## Food, Cookbooks, and American Food History

Following lifelong passions for books and for cooking, Penelope Bingham began accumulating cookbooks over 40 years ago. Her personal collection of cookbooks now exceeds 2,000 volumes. She is particularly interested in the stories American cookbooks of the last two centuries tell about American culture and identity. She has given programs on American Cookbooks and Culture to libraries and cultural organizations throughout Illinois as a Road Scholar for the Illinois Humanities Council, as well as in conjunction with the Smithsonian's traveling exhibition, "Key Ingredients: America By Food." She has also addressed the International Association of Culinary Professionals, the Culinary Historians of Chicago, The Wednesday Club of the Newberry Library of Chicago, the Cookware Manufacturers Association, and home economists of Kraft Foods. Her work with American Cookbooks and Culture was recently featured in Chicago Magazine and on WBBM/TV's "Table For Two." Since 1990, she has been the volunteer "Cookbook Lady" for the Annual Book Fair of the Newberry Library of Chicago, preparing for sale the thousands of vintage cookbooks that are donated each year. Penelope holds degrees from Wellesley College and the University of Chicago. She is a member of the Culinary Historians of Chicago and the International Association of Culinary Professionals.



### Programs available:

- **Just What Is American Food? Cookbooks and American Cultural Identity**

This presentation looks at America's "Founding Food" as evidenced by historic cookbooks, and then considers how the integration of immigrants into American society, from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to the present, is reflected in our cookbooks and food preferences. How did pizza become as American as apple pie and lasagna find its way onto the Thanksgiving table? Is our identity as Americans changed now that salsa outsells ketchup? This program invites the audience to think about the ways in which what we cook and eat influences – and is influenced by – our identity as Americans.

- **Who Cooks? American Cookbooks and Changes in Gender Roles**

American cookbooks—their authors, their implied audience, the social structure implicit in their recipes and meal plans—tell the story of the changes in the role of women and social structure in 20th century America. The cookbook is much more than a "how-to" manual; it documents the expectations for "good food" and for a "good cook." Looking at the century's most popular cookbooks brings to light its changing values. This program invites the audience to think about the links between who cooks our food and how our society is structured.

- **What Would Lincoln Eat? American Cookbooks And Culture 1809 – 1865**

Richard Nixon craved cottage cheese with catsup, Ronald Reagan kept his jelly beans handy in the Oval Office, and George H. W. Bush famously refused broccoli. But what would our sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln, eat? From cornmeal mush in a log cabin on the American Frontier to

Charlotte Russe à la Parisienne at the White House, the food on Lincoln's table and the cookbooks of the period shed light on both Lincoln's story and that of the United States. This program invites the audience to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial with the recipe for his Favorite Cake, and to think about this era of unprecedented expansion and turmoil which set in motion changes in America and to its foodways that continue into the present.

- **Vintage Cookbooks, Modern Cooks**

Today's American food scene includes new ingredients and ethnic cuisines undreamed-of by previous generations of cooks in this country. National food-and-cooking media—magazines, television, the Internet, and more than 1500 new cookbooks each year—make this “New American Cuisine” familiar in every corner of the United States. Are traditional American dishes and cookbooks now obsolete for all practical purposes, useful primarily as nostalgic mementos or historical records? This program invites the audience to consider the place of American cookbooks and recipes from the past, distant and recent, in the 21st Century American kitchen.

- **Thanksgiving: The Great American Holiday**

Nine out of ten Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving, and most do so around a family table. Food and tradition are the heart and soul of this most-loved, most-observed holiday. Thanksgiving has become the origin myth of America and the expression of deeply held American cultural ideals. As it considers the evolution of Thanksgiving, from the “First Thanksgiving” in 1621 to the present day, this program invites the audience to think about what this holiday and its food traditions mean for American culture and identity.

- **Whatever Happened to Tuna Noodle Casserole?**

The mere mention of “Tuna Noodle Casserole”—the one made with canned tuna, packaged noodles, and canned soup—to an American of a certain age can call up powerful memories. Love it or hate it, Tuna Noodle Casserole has been an icon of American home cooking since the 1950s. This program invites the audience to think about the ways in which the family dinner table, and American culture, have changed since the days of *Leave It to Beaver*, and about the role of the food industry in American food culture.

## **Jeffrey A. Bockman**

### **Genealogy and Travel**

Jeffrey A. Bockman holds an MBA from Illinois Benedictine College in Business and Organization Development. He has been giving genealogy lectures and teaching classes for the past 13 years. He is a contributing editor for the Everton's Genealogical Helper and the author of the book, *Give Your Family A Gift That Money Can't Buy: Record & Preserve Your Family's History*. He is the current and a past 4-term president of the DuPage County (IL) Genealogical Society.



### **Programs available:**

- **A Gift That Money Can't Buy!**

This program encourages everyone to preserve their family's history. It covers how to document the basic facts and how to identify important documents to save. It also emphasizes the importance of family photographs and how to properly identify everyone and takes you through recording the stories that make your family "Your Family," and then preserving it all for future generations to enjoy.

- **Extra! Extra! Read All About Your Ancestors!**

See the wealth of information in newspapers that can help in your research. Learn how to locate some of those little gems with published extracts, online and printed indexes, or online searches.

- **No Birth Certificate? No Problem!**

This presentation takes a look at the wide variety of primary and secondary sources to determine when a person was born and who were their parents if a birth certificate is not available or cannot be found.

- **Marriage - More Than A Date**

This program reviews a wide variety of marriage records, including records that can identify a spouse and narrow down the date and examines along a case study of a couple that traveled to New Orleans in 1890 to get married.

- **They Came On This Ship**

Look at passenger lists, immigration records, emigration records, printed indexes and other sources to find the ships that carried your ancestors. Then learn about the ship's history and maybe even find an image of it.

- **Using Maps in Genealogical Research**

An overview of both physical and online maps, including historical atlases, state and county maps, plat (land ownership) maps, and inside details on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. It also examines panoramic, migration, topographical, and others. Bockman will take you through how to look at maps with other records and using them to help find other records.

- **Real Research on the Web**

Reviews the basic steps of genealogical research while showing useful internet sites that contain images of “real records,” indexes, or information about where to obtain the records needed to do real research. See the results from contacting new cousins and researchers.

- **Living With Brick Walls**

Problem solving and record keeping techniques that will let you be able to stop and start various types of brick wall research so that you can also live a life.

- **Genealogy Vacation - Myth or Reality?**

“Genealogy” and “Vacation” are rarely used together except in a divorce proceeding. You cannot resolve five to twenty years’ worth of genealogy questions within a two-week research trip. Even if you could, this type of a trip would not be considered a vacation! Learn to use the Internet, planning, humor, and common sense to plan your genealogical journey.

- **Making Sense of the Census**

Find out: Who gave the information? Why doesn’t it all agree? You will be guided through the process of how to use the census to find other records and how to use other records to find your ancestors who are not documented by census data.

- **Cemeteries - Look High and Low, Above and Below**

See what you can find at a cemetery along with clues and online tools to help find them. See how cemetery records can let you see what is really below the ground. View photographs of unique tombstones and monuments along with samples of various cemetery records, funeral home records, and obituaries.

- **Courthouse Research - Where Do I Start?**

Are you thinking about going down to the local courthouse to research your family? Let Jeff take you through the basics: vital records; birth, marriage & death certificates; indexes; and jurisdictions and their history. He will also take you through probate records—what you might find in wills and probate files.

- **Travel - Paris & a Quick Tour de France**

This tour starts in Paris and then tours the country by heading southeast to Lake Annecy and the Cote d’Azur, then traveling west through Provence and the Tarn River Valley. We then head down to Carcassonne and come back north through Lot and the Dordogne before ending up in the Loire river valley and Chartres.

- **Travel - Austria, Slovenia, & Ludwig's Castles**

This tour starts in the lake country near Salzburg, heads south to the Worther See, down to the Slovenian coast at Portoroz and Piran, up to Ljubljana, southeast to the Bela Krajina area near Stari Trg ob Kolpi and Novo Mesto, northwest to Skofja Loka, Lakes Bled and Bohinj. Visit Kitzbuhl, Innsbruck and then Ludwig's castles in Bavaria.

- **Travel - Out to Yellowstone & the Tetons**

This tour starts with the Corn Palace and goes to the Badlands, the Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Tetons, and Jackson Hole. There are a few side trips to the Snake River and the Wind River Range.

## Ellie Carlson

### Historic Clothing, Cooking, and Reenactments

Elizabeth “Ellie” Carlson is the Curator of Costumes for the Winnetka Historical Society, has a background in the theatre, and is a student of nineteenth century Domestic Arts. She holds a Masters of Historical Administration and Museum Studies from the University of Kansas, and has worked in local museums for 25 years. Ellie believes that properly costumed living history is the closest we can come to a time machine experience. Theatre and history combine to show what the past might really have looked, felt, smelled, and sounded like in Ellie’s presentations.



Photo by Mark Howe

### Programs available:

- **The Intelligent Design of the Apron**

From Adam and Eve to Emeril, aprons have been a part of human existence. They cover clothing, sometimes act in place of clothing, carry food, kindling, children, and have even played a role in seduction. Come hear and see more about the apron. Ellie is a Museum Curator with a specialty in clothing and textiles. She will bring historic and re-created examples of aprons which date back to the dawn of time. At the end of the lecture, attendees will get the opportunity to don the aprons, forming a human time-line of the apron’s development. Approximate running time 45 minutes with time added at the end for putting on the aprons, viewing any aprons that audience members have brought, and having discussion.

- **Dating Photographs Through Clothing**

“Some people are married to their jobs, I date costumes.” Family photographs are hard to date once the generation pictured has passed away. Many people have unidentified photos in their collection. Determining an approximate date may help you to know whether the woman in the photo is your grandmother or your great-grandmother. This is where costume dating can be helpful. Fashion, especially women’s fashion, was very distinctive in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Becoming familiar with certain popular silhouettes enables one to assign a date range to a photograph, thus helping to identify those pictured. Please bring photographs with you to the lecture and we will all try to date them for you using the techniques outlined in the presentation.

- **Caring for Keepsakes**

Why does newspaper yellow? How should I store my wedding dress? Can I restore old family photographs? What do I use to dust my Great Aunt’s desk? These and many other questions can be answered in the workshop, *Caring for Keepsakes*. Ellie is a museum curator with over 20 years experience. She can discuss the care of historic objects which are stored in the home, instructing participants in adapting museum storage techniques to home use. Precious heirlooms deserve the same care and informed treatment they would receive if they were part of a museum collection. Samples of archival supplies are available to all participants in this hands-on presentation.

- **Speaking of Unmentionables: The Rise and Fall of Ladies Underwear**

Women’s fashions are shaped, literally and figuratively, by their underclothes. Throughout history a woman’s frame has not always been entirely her own. Delicate pieces of linen and lace, stiff

corsets, and sturdy hoops and bustles are fascinating to modern eyes. They are the unseen history of an era. Modern contrivances are no less remarkable. Who is the world thought of control top panty hose? And we thought we were liberated! This novel and sometimes naughty\* presentation will unveil some myths about women's unmentionables. Participants will also view actual examples of historic underwear. *\*Ladies only please!*

- **Historic Cooking Classes: 1850, 1900, 1930, 1950**

This was designed as a series of four weekly classes but can be produced as a single session. Ellie has researched cooking techniques, period appropriate ingredients, and recipes for four eras in Midwestern American Homemaking history. She will present each session in costume. Recipes and ingredients reflect the time period, season of the year, and economic climate of the time. Changes in food preparation techniques, the enactment of food laws, and scientific discoveries regarding food safety are discussed. For groups of fewer than 12, participants prepare and consume the food for each session in a workshop format. For larger groups, the class can be done as a more formal demonstration. Cookbooks are provided as take-away. *Running time:* approximately 2 hours. *Requirements:* Two 8 foot tables, electrical outlet (or firepit for 1850s), access to nearby sink, access to oven if possible, 2 or 3 volunteer helpers for larger audiences

- **A Visit with Mrs. Potts**

At the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876, Mary Florence Potts' cold-handled sad iron was the toast of the fair. She spent the next two decades touring the country with a promotional lecture. Mrs. Potts will visit your group as a stop on her tour to promote her invention. She will discuss domestic life in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the science and technology behind the development of her invention, and what it means for a woman to hold a US Patent and manage her own affairs. Mrs. Potts can appear at your event in 1885, or if you prefer, in 1893 when she was in Chicago for the Columbian Exposition. Mrs. Potts arrives costumed in the preferred year, with examples of her invention and period appropriate promotional materials.

- **Little Schoolhouse on the Prairie**

A costumed interpretation of a typical school day in northern Illinois, circa 1858. Ellie, dressed in appropriate period clothing, becomes schoolteacher, Miss Isabella Hoffmann, for your class or group. The children will travel back in time to 1858 and be given Arithmetic, Geography, Recitation, and Penmanship lessons. This program is designed for second through fifth grades, but can be adapted to other ages, even adults, upon request. *Running time:* Can be adapted to 45 minutes but it is a better experience for the children if they spend at least an hour and a half with Miss Hoffmann. For half-day sessions, we include time for recess games and lunch.

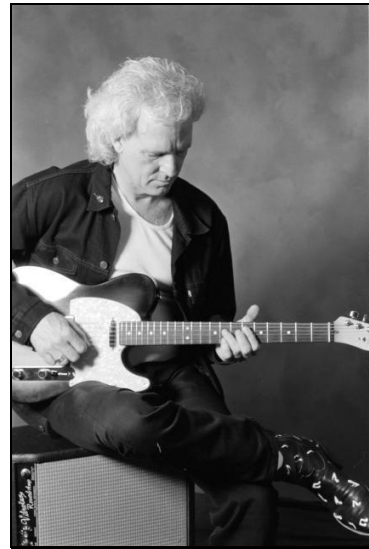
- **'Round the World on a Penny**

Anita Willets Burnham was an artist, author and visionary who boldly took her family of 5 around the world, twice, in the 1920s. They went third class, she said, "only because there wasn't a fourth." After years of encouragement from friends and her art students, she wrote a book about their adventures and launched herself into the lecture circuit to promote it. Mrs. Burnham was fortunate, later in life to discover a man who invented a time machine. In exchange for her painting portraits of his family, he sends her forward in time to your event. Mrs. Burnham very much enjoys the 21<sup>st</sup> century and always regrets that she must come without her paint box.

# Bucky Halker

## Folksongs and Performance

Bucky Halker is a performer, songwriter, and recording artist, as well as a PhD in American History. He has lectured and performed throughout the USA, Canada, and Europe and is the author of *For Democracy, Workers, and God: Labor Protest and Labor Song-Poems*. Bucky produced the Illinois Humanities Council's celebrated CD series, *Folksongs of Illinois, vols. 1-3* (2007).



### Programs available:

- **Illinois Songs of Death and Dying**

Illinois has a rich folksong tradition that includes a large body of songs related to death and dying in the state. Tornados, murders, hangings, floods, shipwrecks, gang violence, assassinations, fires, and train wrecks all claimed victims in songs that circulated widely in the state. Join Bucky for a performance-lecture that features a sampling of these “lively” songs and insightful commentary on their history, importance, and function in the Prairie State.

- **Folksongs of Illinois**

Illinois has rich and diverse folk music traditions that are little known to most people and understudied by scholars. From the beginning of the 19th century through the folk revival of the 1950s, the many peoples who have made Illinois their home have produced a huge body of folk music from historical ballads, to labor anthems, to early country songs, to dance tunes (not to mention an equally large body of music from ethnic communities in the state.) Having recently produced the Illinois Humanities Council's *Folksongs of Illinois* CD series, Bucky will share his knowledge of Prairie State folk music in a program that features performance and commentary, as well as a sampling of CD series and other recordings.

- **Woody Guthrie, the Great Depression, and American Protest Songs**

During the 1930s, the Depression and the Dustbowl ravaged America's economy and left millions of Americans unemployed and homeless. Even those who didn't lose their jobs or farms often experienced the hardship of reduced incomes. Not surprisingly, music became an important method for expressing dissatisfaction with the status quo. Indeed, protest songs emerged as the collective voice of this army of migrants and downtrodden and the era produced a great outpouring of protest songwriting, including the songs of Woody Guthrie. Join Bucky for a program that combines performance and commentary, as he reviews working-class protest songs from the Dustbowl and Great Depression.

# Sarah Marcus

## Chicago History and History on Film

Sarah Marcus received her doctorate in American History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2001, writing a dissertation on images of Chicago and the Middle West in popular culture. Recently she has taught courses at Northwestern University, Loyola University Chicago, and the College of DuPage. Dr. Marcus speaks throughout the Chicago area and internationally on various topics, including the history of Chicago in television and film, images of the American Presidency in popular culture, and her role as an editor for the *Encyclopedia of Chicago* project



Photo by Ryan Bakerink

### Programs available:

- **History of Chicago**

Follow the story of Chicago from the ground up as historian Sarah Marcus explores why and how a city was built on the swampy shores of Lake Michigan. Explore the events, trends, and individuals—from William Ogden to Rube Foster, Haymarket Square to Hull-House, the 1871 fire to the 1968 National Democratic Convention—that have shaped the story of this Midwestern metropolis. Think you know it already? Even born-and-bred Chicagoans will find something new in a presentation that incorporates maps, photographs, and historical documents to explore lesser known aspects behind familiar stories.

- **Chicago on Screen**

Join historian Sarah Marcus and view the history of Chicago through television and film, noting how producers of popular culture have depicted the city and its residents. Using a variety of clips—from *Scarface* (1932) to *The Untouchables* (1987), from *Studs' Place* (1950-51) to *Good Times* (1974-79)—this presentation follows the camera's focus and reflects on lasting impressions created by flashing images on the screen.

- **Heroes, Statesmen, Philanderers, and Fools: The American Presidency in Popular Culture**

Werewolves roam the White House. A president is assassinated on the streets of Chicago. Another president dukes it out with terrorists aboard Air Force One. Explore the American presidency as it has been depicted in television and film – from fictional characters like *The West Wing's* Josiah Bartlet to fictionalizations of real presidents in *Birth of a Nation* and the internet sensation *JibJab*. Although primarily intended to entertain, these depictions also offer criticism, praise, and alternative visions of contemporary political life. What images do they create, and what insights can we gain about American politics and culture?