The “Detroit/Windsor Funnel” (The Centennial of the National Prohibition Act)

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019 7:30 p.m.**  Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, GP Woods

The Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1919, prohibiting the sale, consumption, & manufacturing of alcoholic beverages. The National Prohibition Act, which became effective on January 16, 1920, defined what constituted an illegal alcoholic beverage and provided federal, state, and local authorities the regulations to enforce the prohibition of alcohol.

With the supply of alcohol cut off, bootleggers turned to Canada, which had no such liquor laws. Smugglers began trafficking bootlegged liquor across the border and into Michigan via the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair, an area which became known as the “Windsor-Detroit Funnel”, as 75% of all the alcohol smuggled into the United States during Prohibition crossed the border through these two waterways.

By 1929, rum running was Detroit’s second largest industry, netting $215 million per year. The Detroit News estimated that there were between 16,000 and 25,000 speakeasies (illegal drinking establishments) operating in the Detroit area.

**Author: Joel Stone** is the Detroit Historical Society’s senior curator, which oversees the Detroit Historical Museum, Dossin Great Lakes Museum, and a quarter-million artifacts in the City of Detroit’s historical collections. Raised in the Detroit area, Mr. Stone studied journalism, history, archaeology & archival management at the University of Detroit, Wayne State University, and the University College in Cork, Ireland.


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**Wicked Detroit** (Arcadia Publishing/History Press)

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 7:30 p.m.**  Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, GP Woods

The Motor City boasts a long and despicable history of scoundrels, cheats and ne-err-do-wells. They include founding father, Antoine Cadillac, Augustus Woodward and Daniel Campau. The latter’s involvement with the horse racing track in Grosse Pointe Township is intriguing.

**Author: Mickey Lyons**, historian and author specializes in the history of drinking in Detroit, from frontier saloons to Prohibition-era speakeasies to modern-day cocktail bars. Her current project, [www.ProhibitionDetroit.com](http://www.ProhibitionDetroit.com), chronicles Detroit’s turbulent and exciting history during Prohibition.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:30 p.m.  Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, GP Woods

This program will describe some of Detroit’s most violent, clever and misunderstood female criminals. Including the following: “Queen of the Underworld” Sophie Lyons, who faced off with detective Teresa Lewis in court three times and twice in the street, rendering both women battered and bloodied. Nellie Pope, who goaded her lover to axe her husband in what the press called “one of the most atrocious, cold-blooded, and deliberately-planned murders” in city history. Mother Elinor L. Mason, “High Priestess of the Flying Roller Colony,” was no holy roller but a criminal chameleon who changed personas as easily as some people change clothes. And a feud between Delray madams Julia Toth and Annie Smith exposed widespread graft in the thriving red-light industry and led to one of the worst police scandals in Motor City history. These stories and more from the book will be discussed.

Author: Tobin T. Buhk, is a connoisseur of crime, a gourmet of the ghastly, an aficionado of the atrocious and a fanatic of the felonious and a maven of misdeeds. This work was his tenth book. To research his first book, he spent a year as a volunteer in the Kent County Morgue.

He grew up in Wyoming, near Grand Rapids, and possesses a BA & MA in English Michigan State and a Master in Education from Western Michigan. He is a high/middle school teacher, currently teaching in the Forest Hills school district, outside Grand Rapids. He has been featured as an expert on the Travel Channel’s Mysteries at the Museum.

Early Organized Crime in Detroit: Vice, Corruption and the Rise of the Mafia
- History Press

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 7:30 p.m.  Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, GP Woods

The Italian mafia was operating in Detroit as early as 1900, and the city was forever changed. Bootleggers controlled the Detroit River and created a national distribution network for illegal booze during Prohibition. Gangsters, cops and even celebrities fell victim to the violence. Some politicians and prominent businessmen collaborated closely with the mafia, while others, such as popular radio host Gerald Buckley, fought back and lost their lives. This book explores Detroit and the metro area’s struggle with gang violence, public corruption and the politics of vice during the tumultuous first half of the 20th century.

Author: James Buccellato, PhD, was a facility member in the Dept. of Criminology and Crime Justice at Northern Arizona University, and the Irvin D. Reid Honors College at Wayne State University, for many years. He researches and writes about the politics of crime and his work appears in peer-reviewed journals, crime anthologies and national news websites. James is also a certified gang specialist with the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago. He co-hosts the podcast “Original Gangsters” as part of the Entercom media network. He also appears as an expert on organized crime and gangs in documentary episodes featured on VICE television and the Travel Channel. A native Detroiter, he has been fascinated by his family’s history in Sicily and Detroit since he was a child.
Votes for Women: Suffrage in Michigan (to mark the Centennial of the Women’s Vote)

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:30 p.m. Grosse Pointe South High School Auditorium, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236


For more than 80 years after Michigan became a state in 1837, women fought for the right to vote. Their goal was to overcome the obstacles that stood in their way and to achieve the ultimate victory – universal suffrage for women! Michigan ratified the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on June 10, 1919 and it was officially adopted on August 26, 1920, after thirty states had ratified it.

Author: Susan L Nenadic is a retired high school teacher of English and History. She is the author of A Purse of her Own: Occupations of Nineteenth Century Women and Legendary Locals of Ann Arbor, as well as many articles. Ms. Nenadic provides programs throughout Michigan and teaches adult learning classes. She is a former board member of the Washtenaw County Historical Society, for which she was in charge of museum exhibitions. She is currently a member of the Ann Arbor Street Exhibit Educational Committee. Most importantly, she is president of a non-profit, Friends of Amoru, which is building and financing a school in rural Uganda. All of her speaking fees are donated to Friends of Amoru.