

# Grosse Pointe Historical Society

## 2018-2019 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series



Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
381 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
www.gphistorical.org

### **Wednesday, September 19 at 7:30 pm.**

Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza (just off Mack Ave.) Grosse Pointe Woods

#### **The Faygo Book**

This book is the social history of a company that has forged a bond with the residents of Southeast Michigan for more than a century. The story of Faygo, Detroit's beloved soda pop, begins 107 years ago with two Russian immigrant brothers who were looking to get out of the baking business. Starting with little more than pots, pails, hoses, and a one-horse wagon, Ben and Perry Feigenson reformulated cake frosting recipes into carbonated beverage recipes. Out of more than forty bottlers in Detroit's "pop alley," Faygo remained the last one standing.

Author, **Joe Grimm**, a 25-year veteran of the Detroit Free Press and Michigan State journalism professor, possesses BA and MA degrees in journalism and a teaching certificate from U. of M. Previously, he was a Bicknell speaker in 2012 when he co-authored, **Coney Detroit**.

### **Wednesday, October 17 at 7:30 pm.**

Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza (just off Mack Ave.) Grosse Pointe Woods

#### **Michigan's Polar Bear Soldiers of WWI: A Centennial Perspective**

One hundred years ago, 5,000 U.S. soldiers, the majority of them from Michigan, were stranded in the Arctic region of Russia, engaged in bitter combat with the Bolshevik Red Army. They would not be withdrawn from this obscure military intervention until June of 1919, by which time 230 of them had lost their lives. The remains of 56 members of the American Expeditionary Force are buried in plots surrounding the Polar Bear Memorial in [White Chapel Memorial Cemetery](#) in Troy. Their efforts are commemorated annually at the cemetery during a Memorial Day service conducted by the Polar Bear Memorial Association.

Presenter, **Mike Grobbel**, grandson of a "Polar Bear" and president of the Polar Bear Memorial Association, will draw on the experiences of his grandfather and other veterans of that campaign, including Harry Mead, father of Grosse Pointer, Hudson Mead.

### **Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 pm.**

**(NOTE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday due to Thanksgiving Day falling on 11/22)**

Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza (just off Mack Ave.) Grosse Pointe Woods

#### **Alexander Girard, Architect: Creating Midcentury Modern Masterpieces**

During the midcentury period, Michigan attracted visionary architects, designers, and theorists, including Alexander Girard. While much has been written about Girard's vibrantly colored and patterned textiles for Herman Miller, the story of his Detroit period, encompassing interior and industrial design, exhibition curation, and residential architecture has not been told. *Alexander Girard, Architect: Creating Midcentury Modern Masterpieces* is the first comprehensive study of Girard's architectural projects, specifically those concentrated in Grosse Pointe.

Author, **Deborah Lubera Kawsy** possesses a BA from Smith College and a PhD in art history from Princeton University. She is an adjunct associate professor of art history at Madonna University in Livonia.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 7:30 pm.**

Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza (just off Mack Ave.) Grosse Pointe Woods

***Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City***

Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City includes over 700 original photos and is a unique effort to explore, explain, and document Detroit's amazing collection of architectural sculpture on a building-by-building basis.

To compliment the photos, exhaustively researched text that delves into the lives of all those who created these wonderful works of architectural art. Emphasis is placed on telling the stories of talented sculptors and artisans, including Grosse Pointer, Corrado Parducci, who worked on these buildings.

Author/Photographer, **Jeff Morrison** possesses a BA in History & Art from Eastern Michigan University and over 30 years-experience as a graphic artist.

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 7:30 pm.**

Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza (just off Mack Ave.) Grosse Pointe Woods

***Fruits of Perseverance: The French Presence in the Detroit River Region, 1701-1815***

Founded by French military entrepreneur Antoine Laumet de Lamothe Cadillac in 1701, colonial Detroit was occupied by thousands of French settlers who established deep roots on both sides of the river. Exploring the French colonial presence in Detroit, from its establishment to its dissolution in the early nineteenth century, this book explains how a society similar to the rural settlements of the Saint Lawrence valley developed in an isolated place and how it survived well beyond the fall of New France in 1763, covering the era through the end of the War of 1812 in 1815.

Author, **Guillaume Teasdale** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at the University of Windsor possesses a BA from the U. of Montreal; MA from the University of Sherbrooke and the PhD from York University.

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 pm.**

Country Club of Detroit 220 Country Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms

***Benson Ford: A Historical Perspective***

Benson Ford, second son of Edsel and Eleanor Clay Ford, he born a century ago on July 20, 1919. At birth he was named Edsel Junior, but quickly re-named Benson, his maternal grandmother's maiden name.

Easygoing, affable and good-humored, he left Princeton after two years to work at Ford Motor Company before enlisting into the Army Air Corp during WWII. As a Ford Motor Co. Director & Vice President, he led the Mercury Division from 1948-56 and then served as Ford's Chairman of the Dealer Policy Board until is passing in 1978. Additionally, Mr. Ford's work on behalf of local charities was very extensive.

Presenter, **Mark Heppner** is Vice President for Historic Resources, Historic Ford Estates. Before assuming his current role, he was the Executive Director of Salisbury House & Gardens, and Vice President of Museum Services at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. He received his B.A. at Miami University in History & minors in Political Science and Anthropology. He also possesses an M.A. degree from Cleveland State University in American History with specific focus in public history and archival research.