Like so many other events that require gathering in close quarters, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series has had to adapt due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Spring (March-May) 2020 lecture series was postponed and has now become the Fall (September-November) 2020 lecture series. The Fall 2020 lecture series will be offered online via remote access only, while still remaining free. We look forward to once again offering in person programs once the COVID-19 pandemic has passed.

You can now enjoy the Society’s lecture series from the comfort and safety of your own home. Connecting to the lectures is easy, but requires pre-registration.

Registration is required so that instructions for remote access can be e-mailed to participants in advance. If you can watch and listen to a video on YouTube or Facebook, you have all the technology you need to join us remotely for the lecture/webinar.

In order to register for the Bicknell Lecture in September, please click on this link:


You may use this link to register for the October webinar beginning on September 17, and the November webinar beginning on October 22.

You may also type it into your browser’s navigation bar. This link will take you to the registration page, where you can input your name and email address. Once you submit your information, you will receive an email with the link to the lecture (webinar), which you can click on the evening of the event. Please try to arrive 5-10 minutes early in order to ensure that your audio is working properly.

Descriptions of the fall programs are included at the bottom of this message. Please contact me by e-mail (GPHSonline@gmail.com) or telephone (586) 445-0041 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mike Skinner
Grosse Pointe Historical Society Trustee & Bicknell Committee Chair
Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS)
Fall 2020 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

NOTE: In order to register for these Bicknell Lectures please type the following link into your browser’s navigation bar: https://bit.ly/GPHSonline. This link will take you to the registration page, where you can input your name and email address. Registration for the September webinar is currently live, with registration for the October webinar going live on September 17, and registration for the November webinar going live on October 22.

Once you submit your information, you will receive an email with the link to the lecture (webinar), which you can click on the evening of the event. Please try to arrive 5-10 minutes early in order to ensure that your audio is working properly.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 7:30pm: Votes for Women: Suffrage in Michigan
This program is jointly sponsored by the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe Historical Society and the League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe.

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 two-thirds of all states ratified it.

Author/Presenter: 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. More importantly, she is president of a non-profit organization, Friends of Amoru, which is building and financing a school in rural Uganda. All of her speaking fees are donated to Friends of Amoru.

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:30pm: Early Organized Crime in Detroit: Vice, Corruption and the Rise of the Mafia
Arcadia Publishing/History Press Book

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/Presenter:** James Buccellato, PhD, has been a faculty 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 has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, crime anthologies and on 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. James has also appeared 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.

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020 7:30pm: Wicked Women of Detroit**
*Arcadia Publishing/History Press Book*

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. 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/Presenter:** 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 is his tenth book. To research his first book, he spent a year as a volunteer in the Kent County Morgue. Tobin grew up in Wyoming, Michigan, near Grand Rapids, and possesses a BA & MA in English from Michigan State and a Master in Education degree 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*.