Chicago’s Best and Brightest

8 Events! 4 Days! One Convenient Location! June 4 - 7, 2007

Oakton Community College, Ray Hartstein Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie

Chicago’s rich history is resplendent with great and fascinating people, honored universities, and a vibrant cultural landscape that includes world-class venues for theater, music, art, and more. Our catastrophic yet innovative past also includes a river that runs backwards, and a catacomb of forgotten streets beneath its surface. Join us to celebrate the contributions of such essential civic leaders as Jane Addams, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, and Mayor Richard J. Daley and Rabbi Jacob Weinstein. Understand why so many rush to claim Chicago as “My Kind of Town.”

Festival Fee: $45 for the entire Bluestem Festival (HUM S86-43); $10 per lecture (use individual HUM codes listed by lecture title). To register, return completed registration form to Oakton Community College, Emeritus Office, 7701 North Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077. Half price tuition does not apply. For information, please call 847.635.1414.

Monday, June 4

10 - 11:30 a.m.
Chicago’s All Time Greats (HUM S86-44)
Chicago was built by great and fascinating people, individuals whose strength of character, leadership, vision, and charismatic persona combined with their skills and abilities to achieve greatness in their chosen fields. Join historian Bill Haase to peer into lives of six such “all-time greats,” including Hull House founder Jane Addams, U.S. Sen. Paul Douglas, labor leader Sidney Hillman, humanitarian Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Chicago Cubs player and manager Frank “The Peerless Leader” Chance, and Mayor Richard J. Daley. Each of these individuals were inspirational role models who helped transform Chicago into the great city it is today.

1 - 2:30 p.m.
Chicago Theater: Big Names and Bright Lights (HUM S86-45)
Don’t miss this entertaining history of theatre in Chicago to find out how Lillian Russell’s mother ran for mayor, why Noel Coward came here for doctor’s appointments, what happened when the Marx Brothers lived on the city’s South Side and how the contemporary off-Loop theatre movement spawned an entire foundation of stage, screen, and television stars. Your guide is Jonathan Abarbanel, an award-winning contributor to Chicago Public Radio and Back Stage.

Tuesday, June 5

10 - 11:30 a.m.
Clarence Darrow: The Lawyer and The Man (HUM S86-46)
For many, the name Clarence Darrow is synonymous with a collection of 20th century courtroom dramas that have been burned into our collective consciousness, including the Scopes “Monkey Trial” and the murder trial of Leopold and Loeb, often called the “trial of the century.” But who was Darrow, the man? Join Emeritus instructor Francine J. Sanders, M.A. in film studies and a former investigator with the Chicago Police Department’s Office of Professional Standards, as we consider the legendary trial lawyer as well as the private, human Darrow.

1 - 4 p.m.
Chicago’s Filmmaking Man: Writer/Director Michael Mann (HUM S86-47)
When lovers of cinema consider Michael Mann, they think of his extraordinary films—The Insider, Collateral, Heat, and The Last of the Mohicans, to name a few. But what most may not realize is that Mann was born and raised in Chicago, and that his mother Esther is a devoted Emeritus student! Join instructor Francine J. Sanders to explore the director’s vision, and screen and discuss his first feature film, Thief (1981). The film was shot in Chicago, and stars James Caan, Tuesday Weld, Willie Nelson, and James Belushi (another favorite son).

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**Wednesday, June 6**

10 - 11:30 a.m.

**Carol Fox: First Lady of the Lyric Opera** (HUM S86-48)

She was bold, brave, and brazen! People told Carol Fox she was crazy to try and resuscitate Chicago's dying opera scene, but she did so in style with the help of businessman Larry Kelly and Lyric artistic director Nicola Rescigno. Her tenure lasted from 1954, the legendary "calling-card season" that featured the U.S. debut of Maria Callas, until her retirement in 1981. Thanks to her efforts, Chicagoans were treated to the world's finest opera for more than a quarter century. Take a closer look at Fox's career with **Patrick Casali**, Emeritus instructor and opera expert.

1 - 2:30 p.m.

**The Art Institute of Chicago: Early 20th Century Collection** (HUM S86-49)

Explore the progress of modern art at the beginning of the 20th century, by focusing on works of expressionism and cubism included in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. **William Nelson**, American Impressionist artist and teacher, explains some of the motivations and thought processes that drove modern artists to express themselves.

**Thursday, June 8**

10 - 11:30 a.m.

**Rabbi Jacob Weinstein: Labor Mediator, Civil Rights Worker** (HUM S86-50)

Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein (1902-1974) had a profound influence on the issues of his day—the maturing of Reform Judaism in America; the horror of the Holocaust; the struggle to form the state of Israel and its meaning for American Jews; and the ongoing battles for civil rights, economic justice, and social stability. Weinstein also was touched deeply by the issues of war and peace, and reached outward to find solutions. Learn more of Rabbi Weinstein's story from longtime family friend **Robert B. (Bud) Lifton**, a civic and social activist who was president of KAM Temple when Weinstein retired from the pulpit.

1 - 2:30 p.m.

**Chicago's Blues Roots** (HUM S86-51)

Hear **Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater** in a musical review of great performers who helped put Chicago on the blues map. Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Big Bill Broonzy are just a few of the legends whose music is kept alive by Clearwater. "The Chief" migrated to Chicago when he was young, and he remains one of the few original Southern blues greats still standing.

*The Bluestem Festival is made possible in part by a grant from the Skokie Fine Arts Commission.*