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your friendship and
ongoing support.*

Buy a Series Package
Save \$35

Join Us for the 58th Annual

Creative Living Series

Returning to the Woodstock Opera House Thursday, October 21st

Always More Than You Expect

Woodstock Fine Arts Association was founded in 1961 and debuted the Creative Living Series three years later. Our not-for-profit organization funds restoration projects at the Woodstock Opera House, awards up to \$15,000 each year in scholarships to McHenry County high school seniors gifted in the arts, and produces quality programming for McHenry County grade school children.



Please visit us: www.woodstockfinearts.org

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

- Phone: (815) 338-5300
- Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Friday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Visa, MasterCard and Discover accepted
- www.woodstockoperahouse.com

New subscriptions
available August 16

**Order by August 14
to retain your 2019-
2020 series seats.**

☐ Please send ____ series tickets @ \$115* each: \$ _____
1 time handling charge: \$2.00
Total Due: \$ _____

Single tickets may be available and can be purchased through the
Box Office for \$25* after September 20.

*\$3 surcharge included

Creative Living Series is a Past
National Endowment for the
Arts Grant Recipient



Name _____

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Please make check payable to: **WOH**
Mail to: Woodstock Opera House
121 Van Buren • Woodstock, IL 60098

Creative Living Series

All programs begin at 10 a.m. ➤ Coffee and conversation offered at 9 a.m.



Chris Jones

A Cultural Critic in a Pandemic: Struggles & Recovery

October 21, 2021

What existential questions confound a critic when there is nothing to critique? This is the dilemma Chris Jones faced during the pandemic-induced shutdown of the arts world. Jones, the long-time chief critic and Sunday culture columnist of the *Chicago Tribune*, shares his thoughts on our shared experience during the COVID-19 crisis, the urgent need to coax the arts back to life and the challenges facing artists to pivot and reinvent. In short, he'll present his perspective on the future of culture in Chicagoland—the perfect kick-off to our return to Creative Living in the Woodstock Opera House.



Stephen Coss

The Fever of 1721: The Epidemic That Revolutionized Medicine and American Politics

February 17, 2022

Colonial Boston was a hotbed of social and political ferment, in revolt against the tyrannies of the Crown and Puritan authority, still reeling from the horrors of the Salem witch trials. The smallpox epidemic of 1721, the city's worst, became the catalyst for change. Stephen Coss brings together an amazing cast of characters—Rev. Cotton Mather and his enslaved African servant, Onesimus; Dr. Zabdiel Boylston; Elisha Cook, Jr; James Franklin and his teenage brother, Benjamin—to tell the story of a year that altered the course of American history, launched American-style journalism, and became a turning point in the eradication of mankind's deadliest disease.

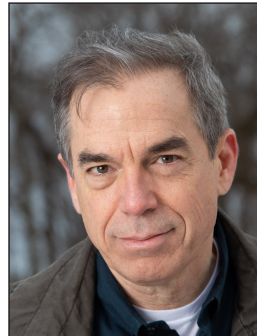


Jacqueline Saper

From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran

November 18, 2021

Photo by Anne Ryan
In her first-hand account of life before and after the 1979 Iranian Revolution that brought the Ayatollahs to power, Saper brings her personal perspective to a historical moment with lasting repercussions. She and her family, members of a thriving Jewish community who suddenly became outsiders, continued to live in the Islamic Republic for eight more years, hiding in the basement as Iraqi bombs fell over the city during the Iran-Iraq war. She shares a story of survival under Islamic law and her eventual escape with her husband and two young children. *From Miniskirt to Hijab* is the winner of the Chicago Writers Association 2020 Book of the Year Award.



Miles Harvey

The King of Confidence

March 17, 2022

James Strang, the most infamous American you've likely never heard of, was a self-proclaimed divine king of earth, heaven, and Beaver Island in Lake Michigan. From this stronghold he controlled a fourth of the state of Michigan, establishing a pirate colony where he practiced plural marriage and perpetrated thefts, corruption, and frauds of all kinds. In presenting this tale of utopian dreamers, frontier schemers, true believers, false prophets and the murder of an American Monarch, author Miles Harvey gets to the root of this American original, setting him in the boisterous pre-Civil War era that allowed con-men like James Strang to thrive.



Liesl Olson

Chicago Avant-Garde: Five Women Ahead of Their Time

January 20, 2022

Chicago Avant-Garde, subject of a Newberry Library exhibit (September 10 – December 31, 2021) tells the story of painter Gertrude Abercrombie, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, choreographers Katherine Dunham and Ruth Page, and dealer-curator Katharine Kuh in the period between the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Communist scare of the 1950s. Unafraid of subverting convention, the women of Chicago Avant-Garde creatively challenged the limitations placed on them because of their gender. They found freedom in poetry, dance, exhibitions, and visual art. Committed to making and supporting provocative art that would activate social change, they took radical risks. Inspired and challenged by Chicago, they helped transform the city into a hub of avant-garde experimentation.



Zac Bleicher

Edgar Miller and the Glasner Studio: An Armchair Tour

April 21, 2022

Edgar Miller was a largely self-taught artist who defied labels and limits. In the early part of the 20th century he designed four studio complexes in Chicago's Old Town neighborhood, transforming old residential spaces into working art colonies. One of these spaces was the lavishly decorated Glasner Studio. Miller marked almost every inch of it with mosaics, woodcarvings, paintings, murals and stained glass in Arts & Crafts, Art Deco, Modernism, Medievalism, and Primitivism styles. Zac Bleicher, executive director of the non-profit Edgar Miller Legacy, will introduce the history of the artist and guide us, room by room, in a virtual tour of Miller's timeless masterwork.