

PROGRAM AGENDA

8:30 A.M. Registration and Refreshments

9:00 A.M. Welcome and GAHWNY Business Meeting

9:30 A.M. The Many Contributions of Genesee County Historians: A Brief Overview of

Local History in Action - Speaker: Michael J. Eula, Genesee County Historian and Records Management Officer. The historians of Genesee County are a committed and talented group of scholars whose work embodies the ideals of local history research. They interpret and preserve the rich history of Genesee County for both contemporary audiences and those of the future. In this essay I am exploring how some of them conduct their research - and what it means for all of us as students of local history. Michael is a Professor of History Emeritus at El Camino College (CA) and holds a doctorate in history from the University of California, Irvine. He has published widely in various areas of history, including the history of New York.

10:00 A.M. Break / Silent Auction - *Let the bidding begin!*

10:30 A.M. Maintaining Our Independence as Municipal Historians - Speaker: Robert Lowell Goller, Aurora Town Historian and East Aurora Village Historian

The GAHWNY Code of Ethics requires municipal historians to maintain their independence, performing "their duties in an unbiased manner." Robert will share his unique perspective on this topic, having served as town historian while also executive director of the Aurora Historical Society and currently as executive secretary to the Aurora Town Supervisor. This program will identify challenges and potential problems municipal historians face and offer tips on how to maintain our independence while also developing appropriate relationships with local elected leaders and historical societies.

11:15 A.M. Digitization 101 for Historians: How and Why - Speaker: Larry Naukam, retired Director of Historical Services, Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County.

Since retiring Larry has been active in the Rochester Genealogical Society Church Records Preservation Committee, catalogs materials for NY Heritage and The Digital Public Library of America, and writes for various online publications. Larry will demystify digital technology with basic tips of the trade and discuss why digitizing is an essential element in promoting local history projects.

12:00 P.M. Lunch - Recognition Ceremony for Historians with 30 years of service

1:15 P.M. Research methods, Controversies, and Scandals surrounding the Warren G. Harding Papers - Speaker: Dr. Phillip G. Payne, History Department Chair, St. Bonaventure University.

Introduction to Public History and Culture Wars: The Politics of Memory are among the courses Professor Payne teaches at St. Bonaventure that explore the diverse array of historical research methodologies. For this program he will illustrate the dos and don'ts of historical research while sharing his experience working with interesting and very colorful Harding Papers. Phillip G. Payne is the author of several books including his most recent, *Dead Last: The Public Memory of Warren G. Harding's Scandalous Legacy* (Ohio University Press, 2009).

2:15 P.M. Break - Silent Chance Auction Concludes.

2:30 P.M. Symbols in the Wilderness: Discovering Early Masonic Treasures in the Upstate Region – Speaker: Joscelyn Godwin, Professor of Music at Colgate University.
The masonic lodges of many Upstate towns harbor a little-known treasure of large symbolic paintings, murals, and decorated objects dating from the early nineteenth century, before the Morgan affair and the Anti-Masonic movement almost extinguished Masonry for twenty years. Joscelyn Godwin will give an illustrated talk about the discoveries that he and Christian Goodwillie (Director and Curator of Special Collections, Hamilton College Library) have made in the past year, to be published in their book *Symbols in the Wilderness*. Professor Godwin is author of *Upstate Cauldron: Eccentric Spiritual Movements in Early New York State* (State University Press, 2015) and many other books on esoteric and musical subjects.

3:30 P.M. Silent Auction winners announced and Spring meeting concludes

Directions to Rochester Club West @BOHN'S Batavia
5256 Clinton Street Road Batavia, NY 14020 (585) 344-1543

From NY State Thruway from Buffalo: Take exit 48 (Batavia), turn left on Rt.98 South (go 1.1miles), turn left on RT. 5 East (go 1.4 miles), turn left on RT. 33 East (go 1.7 miles), BOHN'S will be on your right.

From Rochester and East: Take RT. 490 West, take exit 2 (Bergen), take RT..33 West (go 11 miles), BOHN'S will be on your left.