



WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE

The Prologue Society Newsletter

November 1, 2015

FROM THE CHAIR

The 2015-2016 Season of The Prologue Society is off to a great start! Tim Weiner's presentation on the first book written after the Nixon tapes and other documents were declassified, *One Man Against the World: The Tragedy of Richard Nixon*, was a huge success! Board member Robert Ruwitch, who has been a Prologue member for 23 years, says that Tim received the first standing ovation he remembers. Everyone present was both entertained and enlightened by this terrific author.

Please reserve right away for the November 20 luncheon with Stacy Schiff and her book *The Witches: Salem, 1692*. **IMPORTANT:** This is the **only** notice you will receive to register for the luncheon. *We are no longer sending out cards for each event.* For more about Stacy, see below.

To register: Go to the website at www.theprologuesociety.org and follow the instructions to register for the luncheon. You may also pay with a credit card through our secure website. If you are reluctant to use your credit card online, then please mail or bring a check for \$50.00 per person to the November 20 event. See the detailed instructions, below.

Surprise Announcement: Save the date! Karl Rove will join The Prologue Society on November 30 to discuss his new book, *The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters*. You will soon receive another message with the details about this luncheon to be held at the Riviera Country Club.

If you haven't yet sent in your membership application, please do so right away. You will need to be on the membership rolls before we can accept your reservation for November 20 or November 30.

NEXT LUNCHEON: STACY SCHIFF, NOVEMBER 20

The Witches: Salem, 1692

To register:

- **The deadline to register for this luncheon is Monday, November 16.**
- **Online:** Go to www.theprologuesociety.org and follow the instructions;
- **OR by telephone:** Call 305-323-1154 and talk to Debbie Hirshson or leave a voicemail message that you plan to attend;
- **OR by regular mail:** Send note with a check for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157.
- **Include** the names of your guests.

To pay:

- **Enter your credit card number** on the website;
- **OR mail a check** for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157;
- **OR bring a check** to the November 20 event.

NOTE:

- **We are no longer** sending out registration cards for luncheon events.
- **This will be the *only* notice** you will receive to register for the November 20 luncheon
- **This registration** is for the November 20 luncheon **only**.
- To speed up luncheon check-in and accounting, our preference is that you: 1) pay online, OR 2) mail a check well in advance of the luncheon.
- Mail is taking up to seven days to reach our office. You must get your registration in the mail to us by Monday, November 9. If for some reason you are delayed, **you must phone or email Debbie Hirshson by Monday, November 16 so she knows to expect you.**
- You will soon receive information about how to register for the November 30 luncheon with Karl Rove.

Nov. 20: STACY SCHIFF

The Witches: Salem, 1692

Stacy Schiff, another Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, provides an account of a foundational American tragedy of mass hysteria and injustice. It began in 1692 when a minister's daughter began to scream and convulse.



It ended less than a year later, but not before 19 men and women had been hanged and an elderly man crushed to death. Schiff ably weaves together all the assorted facts and many personalities from the 1692 Salem witch trials and provides genuine insight into a 17th-century culture that was barely a few steps away from the Middle Ages. In an intelligent and reliable book written in a sharp-eyed yet conversational tone, Schiff tells how religious belief and superstition passed for reality. Science had no foothold whatsoever, and both common folk and their educated ministers could believe that local women rode broomsticks, turned into cats, and had the power to be in two places at once. Furthermore, it was a world in which an accusation was as good as a conviction and where seemingly possessed girls flailed and contorted themselves in court, while judges bore down upon helpless defendants with loaded questions. The accused, under the spell of their own culture, could likewise turn on themselves—and not just to save their skin. Schiff says: "Confession came naturally to a people who believed it the route to salvation and who did not entirely differentiate sin from crime."

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

Nov. 30: Karl Rove

The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters

Dec. 10: Sean McMeekin

The Ottoman Endgame: War, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern Middle East, 1908-1923

ALL LUNCHEONS

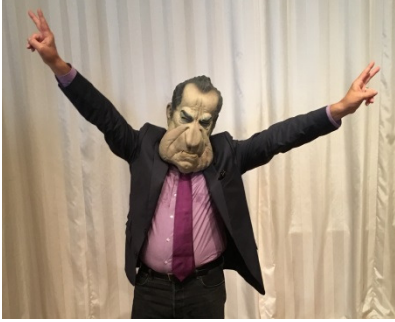
...are held in the Riviera Country Club Ballroom

1155 Blue Road, Coral Gables

12 Noon to 2:00 pm

Doors open at 11:30 am

RECENT LUNCHEONS



At our October 27 luncheon, Tim Weiner both informed and entertained members and guests with his stories (and impersonations) of Richard Nixon and others.

For membership and luncheon information, please visit us online at www.theprologuesociety.org or phone us at 305-323-1154.

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Contact email: theprologuesociety@gmail.com.