



WHAT IS PAST IS
PROLOGUE

The Prologue Society Newsletter

January 10, 2017



FROM THE CHAIR

Congratulations to the Members, Board and Sponsors of The Prologue Society for 25 years of bringing outstanding authors and their wonderful books to Miami readers. It's been an exciting trip for us all. Let's make the next 25 years even better!

I'm delighted to welcome you all to the Spring edition of our 2016-2017 season. As you know, we had a wonderful Fall season, culminating on December 8 with David France's riveting presentation of the early days of the terrifying AIDS epidemic. The Spring lineup promises to be exciting, educational and entertaining.

On January 26, David Oshinsky will talk to us about his new book *Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital*. Oshinsky, the Director of Medical Humanities at NYU School of Medicine, has previously won the Pulitzer Prize for History. This book tells an amazing story of the rise of American medicine and the history of America's oldest and most famous public hospital.

On February 15, Gregory W. Bush will join us to discuss his new book *White Sand Black Beach: Civil Rights, Public Space, and Miami's Virginia Key*. Bush, an associate professor of history at the University of Miami and longtime Miami activist, recounts the unique story of the first postwar (1945) civil rights demonstration and the current state of the public waterfront in Miami.

On March 15, Caitlin Fitz, an assistant professor of history at Northwestern University, will discuss her book *Our Sister Republics: The United States in an Age of American Revolutions*. Fitz's book investigates the period between the Revolution and the Civil War, when British, French, Spanish and Portuguese colonies in South and Central America revolted for independence and the abolition of slavery.

Finally, on April 6, Pulitzer Prize finalist Annie Jacobsen will take us out of our comfort zone to entertain and educate us with her new book *Phenomena: The Secret History of the U.S. Government's Investigation into Extrasensory Perception and Psychokinesis*. In her book, Jacobsen traces the U.S. Government's long hidden history of military and intelligence agency experiments on extraordinary human functioning, including mental telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition and other forms of extrasensory perception for defense purposes.

Please register as soon as possible for our January 26 luncheon with David Oshinsky and his book *Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine & Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital*. **IMPORTANT:** This will be the only notice you receive to register for this luncheon.

On behalf of the Board of directors and staff of The Prologue Society, I wish you and your families a very happy New Year.



Jim Herron
Acting Chair

NEXT LUNCHEON: David Oshinsky, January 26 at 12:00 noon

Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital

To register:

- **The deadline for members to register for this luncheon is Friday, January 20.**
- **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.
- **IMPORTANT: IF YOU REGISTER BY MAIL, you must also call Debbie** (or reply to this email) so that she knows to expect you!

To pay:

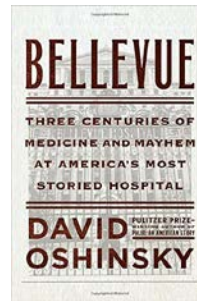
- **Enter your credit card number** on the website;
- **OR mail a check** for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157;
- **OR bring a check** to the luncheon.

Note:

- **IMPORTANT: Remember that all luncheons are held at Riviera Country Club (Ballroom), 1155 Blue Road, Coral Gables, FL 33146.**
- 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 a while to reach us. (Remember to call or email Debbie right away if you're registering via the mail.)
- **If you haven't yet sent in your membership application**, please do so right away (or activate and pay for your membership online). You will need to be on the membership rolls before we can accept your reservation for this and all future luncheons of this season.

JANUARY 26: DAVID OSHINSKY

Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital



Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Oshinsky brings us *Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine and Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital*, a definitive history exploring three centuries at America's oldest public hospital, told through the illuminating lens of public health, immigration, disease, cultural change, and scientific innovation in the world's most diverse city.

Over three centuries, Oshinsky charts the rise of American medicine from butchery and quackery to a professional and scientific endeavor, alongside the rise of New York to the nation's preeminent city. It's a story of medical conflict and social progress that begins in the 1700s when Bellevue was an almshouse for the homeless poor and a pest house for the hopeless sick, when elite doctors believed that toxic clouds spread disease. Progress came late to Bellevue — much later than to Europe, but by 1860 the hospital had become the most important medical training ground in America. It treated thousands of Union soldiers, was the first to employ an ambulance corps, and the first to open a nursing school for women. Bellevue men cared for three American presidents in distress — Lincoln and Garfield, who suffered and died, and Grover Cleveland, for whom the era of germ theory arrived in time. In the next century, Bellevue men would tame tuberculosis, yellow fever, and polio in turn. With full access to Bellevue and its archives — and especially to its collection of truly bizarre medical photography, Oshinsky stunningly documents Bellevue's place as America's quintessential public hospital.

DAVID OSHINSKY, Ph.D., is a professor in the NYU Department of History and director of the Division of Medical Humanities at the NYU School of Medicine. In 2005, he won the Pulitzer Prize in History for *Polio: An American Story*. His other books include the D.B. Hardeman Prize-winning *A Conspiracy So Immense: The World of Joe McCarthy*, and the Robert Kennedy Prize-winning *Worse Than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice*. His articles and reviews appear regularly in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Publisher: Doubleday

Photo credit: Don Rogers

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Friday, January 20, 2017.

RECENT LUNCHEONS

A wonderful time was had by all at our December 8 luncheon with David France.



UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

**Registration is open for the remaining 2016-2017 luncheons.
Call, email, or visit us online.**

Wednesday, February 15 - Gregory Bush
White Sand Black Beach: Civil Rights, Public Space, and Miami's Virginia Key
(registration deadline is February 9)

Wednesday, March 15 - Caitlin Fitz
Our Sister Republics: The United States in an Age of American Revolutions
(registration deadline is March 9)

Thursday, April 6 - Annie Jacobsen
Phenomena: The Secret History of the U.S. Government's Investigations into Extrasensory Perception and Psychokinesis
(registration deadline is March 31)

Riviera Country Club
1155 Blue Road, Coral Gables, FL 33146
Doors open at 11:30am. Luncheons begin at 12:00noon.

2016-2017 SEASON

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