



# AS IT HAPPENS

## SPRING 2023 ISSUE



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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

There is so much happening at the Chicago History Museum this spring—I invite you to visit and bring your family and friends to take advantage of our many offerings.

As COVID-19 concerns have lessened, we've seen a steady increase of in-person visitors and school groups. In 2022, we served a total of 153,151 people through our various platforms—on-site programming, educational offerings, remote classrooms, and more. This is a 39% increase from the previous year, which presents a reassuring outlook.

We are especially excited about the opening of *Back Home: Polish Chicago*. We have festivities planned and invite you to come see the exhibition starting May 20. *Back Home: Polish Chicago* is the result of many years of collaboration with the Polish community in Chicago and in Poland. Objects from the exhibition will eventually travel to the newly constructed Polish History Museum in Warsaw, Poland, and we are honored to build this international partnership.

A new aspect to the visitor experience is the Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail, which invites visitors to contemplate their own legacy and learn about Chicago history as they explore the trail. We talk about the history of Indigenous peoples in this area that became Chicago and highlight their contributions to our history. We also see the trail as a way to engage with the community—encouraging bike riders, runners, dog walkers, and students from nearby Latin School to use the area as an inviting public space.

With so much happening at the Museum, I invite you come and experience fresh perspectives and new ways of seeing the world that inspire connection. So come visit soon and be a part of Chicago history.

Sincerely,



**Donald Lassere** | Edgar D. and Deborah R. Jannotta President and CEO



Front Cover: Polish Highlander Coat, c. 1920. Collection of the Chicago History Museum, gift of the Polish Highlanders of America. Above Right: CHM president Donald Lassere. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2023.

## MAKING HISTORY AWARDS 2023

The Chicago History Museum's Making History Awards is a cornerstone of the institution, raising critical funds, while recognizing individuals and organizations whose enduring contributions to art and culture, sports, business, and civic life have made Chicago a better and more vibrant place to live.

We are pleased to announce the 29th annual Making History Award honorees:



★ **WILLIAM J. BRODSKY**

*Past Chairman & CEO, Chicago Board Options Exchange,  
Past Chairman, Navy Pier, Inc.*

The Marshall Field Making History Award for Distinction in Corporate Leadership and Innovation



★ **GREG BROWN**

*Chairman and CEO, Motorola Solutions*

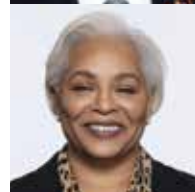
The Daniel H. Burnham Making History Award for Distinction in Visionary Leadership



★ **ROBERT CHEN**

*Violinist and Concertmaster, Chicago Symphony Orchestra*

The Theodore Thomas Making History Award for Distinction in the Performing Arts



★ **MICHELLE COLLINS**

*President, Cambium LLC*

The Bertha Honoré Palmer Making History Award for Distinction in Civic Leadership

29TH ANNUAL  
**MAKING  
HISTORY  
AWARDS**

**JOIN US!**

Wednesday, June 7, 6:00 p.m. | Four Seasons Hotel Chicago  
For tickets and information visit [chicagohistory.org/mha](https://chicagohistory.org/mha)



## BACK HOME: POLISH CHICAGO



## BACK <> HOME POLISH CHICAGO

**DEPARTMENT**  
Costume

**OBJECT NAME**  
Jacket (garment)

**DEVEISED**  
Men's dress ensemble. Ethnic. Polish.

**CLASSIFICATION**  
Costume (mode of fashion)  
clothing-main garments-ceremonial costume

**LABEL TEXT**  
Men's Polish highlander jacket, c. 1920.  
Wool. Poland. Collection of the Chicago  
History Museum, gift of the Polish  
Highlanders of America. 1979.34a

**DATE LABEL**  
c. 1920

### Polish Highlanders Jacket

**MEDIUM**  
Wool (textile)

**DESCRIPTION**  
Jacket, off-white wool felt with long dolman  
sleeves; A-line body; High rounded neckline;  
front opening; trimmed at hem, wrists, and  
neckline with green felt bands appliqued and  
trimmed with multicolored floral embroidery.

**HISTORICAL ATTRIBUTIONS**  
Worn with accessories #1979.70.1-4. Worn  
for parades and on special occasions by  
a member of the Polish Highlanders of  
America, a South Side Chicago organization  
that maintains Polish traditions.

Gift of the Polish Highlanders of America.

Polish Highlanders of America was founded  
in Chicago in 1929.

Collection of the Chicago History Museum, gift of Polish Highlanders of America, c. 1920. 1979.34a. Photograph by Eric Miller, 2023.

## BACK HOME: POLISH CHICAGO

Holly Lundberg, Senior Conservator, and Michael Hall, Costume Preparator and Mount-Maker have been busy preparing the six costumes that make up the *Back Home: Polish Chicago* exhibit.

Of special interest is a 1920s wool Polish Highlanders jacket, featured in the exhibit, that is part of the museum's collection.

"This jacket is special because it is a traditional garment that would have been worn for special occasions," noted Lundberg, "I love that it is all handmade craftsmanship that is an incredible representation of that particular cultural area where it was made—everything on it is hand done with natural materials" Hall also appreciates the unique design of the jacket.

"This jacket is not something anyone would wear for everyday," Hall noted, "this outfit tells a history of the actual culture itself—if you look closely you can get the influence of neighboring countries of Russia and Sweden, yet the design is still strictly Polish"

Lundberg and Hall also prepared the other costumes featured in the exhibit including a 1940s wedding dress made of parachute material, a Betlejem (Bethlehem) Polski king costume with crown, a military jacket, a Girl Scout leader's uniform, and a Gulag (prisoner's) jacket.



*Back Home: Polish Chicago* opens May 20th at the Chicago History Museum and then travels to the newly-constructed Polish History Museum in Warsaw Poland in 2024.

Top: Michael Hall and Holly Lundberg prepare 1920s Polish Highlanders Jacket. CHM Collection 1979.34a. Bottom: Sleeve embroidery detail Polish Highlanders Jacket. Photograph by Eric Miller 2023.

## THE JAFFEE HISTORY TRAIL— A NEW MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

Our recently completed Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail is a new part of our visitor experience. In addition to the extensive landscaping, walkways, sculptures, and native plants of Illinois, the trail invites visitors to see themselves as part of the legacy that makes up Chicago's history.



Look for orange coneflowers, *Rudbeckia Fulgida*, at the trail's north entrance. The orange and yellow flowers are meant to evoke the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

At the north entrance is a large mass of metal made up of the contents of a hardware store, such as nails and washers, that melded together in the extreme heat of the Great Fire.



Top: Richard M. and Shirley H. Jaffee History Trail. CHM Photos, 2022. Bottom left: Orange coneflower. Bottom right: Trail entrance and relic. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2022.

## THE JAFFEE HISTORY TRAIL— A NEW MUSEUM EXPERIENCE



### Zhegagoynak— The Place of Wild Onions

Visitors to the History Trail can see the plant that gave Chicago its name throughout the trail. Look for a 6-to-8-inch-tall plant with a cluster of white flowers on top. The variety of this native plant is also known as *Allium Cernum* or nodding onion.

For thousands of years, this place now known as Chicago, has been a thriving center for Indigenous peoples, including the

Potawatomi, who lived on and took care of this land until white settlers displaced them.

Early French traders, including Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, combined French spellings with Potawatomi words to name objects and places.

The word “Chicago” comes from “Checagou,” likely derived by French traders from the word “Zhegagoynak.”

In Potawatomi, “zhegagosh” means “wild onion” and “nak” means “the place of.”



Left: *Allium Cernum* plant at Jaffee History Trail, photograph by Eric Miller 2022. Right: Photograph courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden 2022.



## HAUNTED DOLLS RECAP



A group of haunted dolls that made a brief appearance last October and November has been returned to the Museum's attic. The pop-up exhibition, *Haunted Dolls and History's Horrors*, was the idea of CHM president Donald Lassere and featured spooky-looking dolls from the Museum's large collection. Designed as a scavenger hunt for both children and adults, the dolls were placed in select areas throughout our permanent exhibition *Chicago: Crossroads of America*. The display generated interest from local, national, and international news media.

"We had a lot of fun curating this project throughout the Museum and had a great reaction from visitors," noted Julie Wroblewski, director of collections.

"We don't know when the dolls may reappear, but for now we are glad they are safely stored away back in the attic."

Some extra scary dolls included a baby doll from the 1870s with a very long dress and three almost-life-sized carolers who once stood in a Marshall Field & Co. holiday window display.



For more information on the exhibition and haunted Chicago history, visit the *Haunted Dolls and History's Horrors* webpage at [chicagohistory.org/dolls](http://chicagohistory.org/dolls)

Left: Doll with long white gown, c. 1870. CHM Collection 1943.161. Right: Dolls from Marshall Field & Co.'s holiday window. CHM Collection 2007.99.37-39. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2022.

## BACK WITH YOU AGAIN: KUKLA FRAN & OLLIE

Last fall, the Chicago History Museum partnered with the Newberry Library, Museum of Broadcast Communications, and the Public Media Institute to produce *Back With You Again: Celebrating 75 Years of Kukla, Fran, and Ollie*.

Created by Chicagoan Burr Tillstrom and hosted by Fran Allison, *Kukla, Fran, and Ollie* premiered on October 13, 1947, under the title *Junior Jamboree*. It quickly developed a local Chicago following and then a national reach. Puppets Kukla, Ollie, and the various

Kuklapolitans engaged Fran Allison and other guests in conversations, song, and make-believe that delighted children and adults alike.

The show inspired later work by Fred Rogers and Jim Henson and remains an important foundation for children's television.



Top: Puppets from *Kukla, Fran & Ollie*. CHM Collection. Photograph by Eric Miller, 2022. Bottom left: Burr Tillstrom with *Kukla, Fran Allison, and Oliver J. Dragon*, c. 1947. CHM, ICHI-017038. Bottom right: Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Programming for the *Kukla, Fran and Ollie Show*, c. 1971. CHM Collection. Photograph by Eric Miller, 2022.

## NO ORDINARY CAMPAIGN—CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE

Documentary movie producers Christopher Burke and Katie Couric were on hand for the premier of independent film, *No Ordinary Campaign*, last October at the Chicago History Museum.

The documentary, which is part of the Chicago International Film Festival, follows Chicago power couple Brian Wallach and Sandra Abrevaya as they battle to enact legislation for ALS research funding and support for people with ALS.

Wallach and Abrevaya met working on the Obama presidential campaign, and both later worked in the Obama White House. When Brian was diagnosed with ALS at age 37, the couple founded I Am ALS, which helped pass groundbreaking legislation, increasing NIH funding for ALS research by \$600 million, and helped pass laws that aid people living with ALS gain access to promising new treatments and receive disability assistance right away.

The film follows Brian and Sandra's extraordinary efforts to gain bipartisan support on Capitol Hill while taking on their own personal struggle with this debilitating disease.



Top left: Christopher Burke and Katie Couric address guests at the premier of *No Ordinary Campaign*. Photograph by David Poznic, 2022. Right: Sandra Abrevaya, Adriana Fazio, Katie Couric, and Brian Wallach met for the movie premier at CHM. Photograph by David Poznic, 2022. Bottom left: Sandra Abrevaya and Brian Wallach on Capitol Hill. Photograph courtesy Chris Burke, Red Tail Media, 2022.

## THE GUILD: QUEEN OF THE LAKES

In January, members of The Guild and their guests gathered for a brunch at Chicago's Saddle & Cycle Club, featuring Theodore Karamanski, professor of history and public history director at Loyola University Chicago.

The program, *Queen of the Lakes: How Chicago Became One of the Busiest Ports in the World*, recounted the city's maritime history and the days when Chicago was the busiest seaport in the United States.



Top left: Exterior of the Saddle & Cycle Club. Bottom left: Karen Zupko, event chair. Top right: Featured speaker Theodore Karamanski. Bottom right: Guild members and guests enjoying brunch at the Saddle & Cycle Club. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2023.



## ALDERMAN MICHELE SMITH HONORED



Michele Smith was honored following her retirement after 11 years as alderman of Chicago's 43rd Ward. CHM vice president of external engagement and development Michael Anderson and president and CEO Donald Lassere presented Smith with a Life Membership in recognition of her civic leadership, contributions to the community, and longtime support of the Chicago History Museum's mission.



Top: Michael Anderson, Michele Smith, and Donald Lassere. Bottom left: Michele Smith. Bottom right: Michael Anderson presents Michele Smith with a Life Membership. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2022.

## GIVING DAY 3★12

On March 12, we celebrated the Museum's fourth annual Giving Day in salute of Chicago's original area code 312.

More than 750 guests enjoyed live music, character-led tours, face painting, games, trivia, and Chicago-themed food. Support from visitors, members, trustees, and friends raised \$92,000 for CHM's Annual Fund—the most successful Giving Day to date. Thank you to all who contributed!

# GIVING DAY 3★12



Left center: Giving Day reception. Bottom left: Hot dog mascot Noah Ketchup. Top right: CHM staff Nell McKeown, Hannah Johnson, Christina Henneuse, and Eva Rachau. Right center (left image): Actress/reenactor Kylie Anderson as Claire Inns. Right center (right image): Trivia hosts Dominic Pacyga and Paul Durica. Bottom right: Brother John Kattke band. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2023.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP— SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

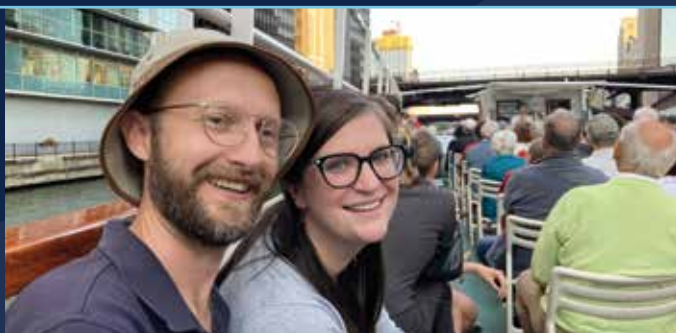


"It's a great time to be a part of the Museum right now because we have so much to offer for our members."

"We've had movie premieres, lectures, parties, behind-the-scenes tours, online programs, and much more. Our members love history, and we have events, programs, and offerings for people of all interests and ages."

– **HANNAH JOHNSON** | member relations manager

Last fall, members participated in a Chicago history river cruise at sunset aboard Chicago Cruise Lines' historic ship, the Fort Dearborn.



Ann Marks, author of *Vivian Maier Developed*, led an exclusive members-only lecture on the life and times of Vivian Maier, Chicago's famous nanny photographer.

Top: Hannah Johnson, member relations manager. Center: Josh Anderson and Caitlin Andler on the Members River Cruise. Bottom: Ann Marks speaks to CHM members at the Vivian Maier: In Color exhibit. Photographs by Eric Miller, 2022. Right Page: Top: Paul Meyer, Marianne Meyer, Lisette Cortes Lade and David Lade. Photograph by Eric Miller, 2022. Center: CHM President Donald Lassere speaks at CHM Annual Meeting, photograph by Eric Miller 2022. Bottom: Connie Fairbanks and Geoffrey Baer, photograph by Hannah Johnson, 2023.

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP— SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



Members enjoyed a 1950s-themed Holiday Party—with special museum archives artifacts on display, live jazz music, a custom cocktail and interactive Chicago History trivia contest.



President Donald Lassere and Chairman Dan Jaffee shared exciting museum news at the 2022 Members' Annual Meeting. Next, Liz Garibay, June Sawyers, and Bill Savage talked about beer and pub history in Chicago, followed by beer samples from Revolution Brewing.

Author Connie Fairbanks was joined by Chicago Historian Geoffrey Baer for a book discussion of Fairbank's new book, *West Loop History: Then and Now*.

Nearly 200 members attended the sold-out program.



### ★ THE PERFECT GIFT...

Did you know, when you give a Chicago History Museum annual membership as a gift, in addition to invitations to exclusive member events, your family and friends can use their CHM membership for free admission at 1,200 museums and cultural attractions nationwide. A full list of North American Reciprocal (NARM) affiliate museums can be found at [narmassociation.org/members](https://narmassociation.org/members)



## SUPPORT CHICAGO HISTORY

### Membership Levels

★  
**INDIVIDUAL**  
\$70

- Free Museum admission for one person (one person on the membership)
- Invitations to annual member events
- Exhibition previews and celebrations
- Discounts on Museum tours, programs, and events
- Discounts at the Museum Store, PhotoStore, North & Clark Café, plus double discount weeks
- Monthly member communications
- Access to member-only parking spaces
- First access to *Chicago History* magazine

★  
**DUAL**  
\$80

*Individual benefits, plus:*

- Free Museum admission for two people

★  
**HOUSEHOLD**  
\$100

*Dual benefits, plus:*

- Free Museum admission for four people

★  
**PLUS+**  
\$30

*Add to any package (except All Star) and receive:*

- Free parking during Museum visit
- Reciprocal benefits at more than 1,200 museums in North America through [narmassociation.org](http://narmassociation.org)
- Two one-time passes to share with friends and family (benefit only available at the Dual, Household, and All Star levels)

★  
**ALL STAR**  
\$250  
BEST VALUE

Support CHM at a higher level. All Star membership is a philanthropic level that includes a \$120 donation to the annual fund and offers even greater access to the Museum. Benefits include all Household and PLUS+ benefits, in addition to one invitation to a behind-the-scenes experience.

## SUPPORT CHICAGO HISTORY

### Historical Alliance

★  
**ASSOCIATE**  
\$500–\$999

- Access to the Museum and Abakanowicz Research Center for up to four adults for one year
- Recognition in the Museum's Annual Report
- Printed *As It Happens* newsletter
- First access to *Chicago History* magazine
- Invitation to two behind-the-scenes experiences
- Discounts on tours, programs, and events
- Discounts at the Museum Store, PhotoStore, North & Clark Café, plus double discount weeks
- Free parking during every Museum visit
- Reciprocal benefits at more than 1,200 museums in North America through [narmassociation.org](http://narmassociation.org)

★  
**PATRON**  
\$1,000–\$2,499

*Associate benefits, plus:*

- Invitation to one additional behind-the-scenes experience

★  
**BENEFACTOR**  
\$2,500–\$4,999

*Patron benefits, plus:*

- Private behind-the-scenes tour for up to eight people (on request)
- Invitations to signature events

★  
**GUARDIAN**  
\$5,000–\$9,999

*Benefactor benefits, plus:*

- Invitation to annual Fourth of July breakfast

★  
**HISTORIAN**  
\$10,000–\$24,999

*Guardian benefits, plus:*

- Recognition on lifetime giving wall
- Invitation to a white glove experience

★  
**PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE**  
\$25,000+

*Historian benefits, plus:*

- Concierge service: dedicated staff assistance to tailor Museum experiences for you and your guests

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

It is with great honor that the Chicago History Museum recognizes the following donors for their generous support.

## Lincoln Honor Roll Society

As of April 1, 2023

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<sup>c</sup> | The Costume Council of the Chicago History Museum  
<sup>■</sup> | The Guild of the Chicago History Museum  
<sup>■</sup> | Deceased

## Institutional Donors

January 1, 2022–December 31, 2022

### \$500,000+

Diana Hunter Trust  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

### \$250,000–\$499,999

The Guild of the Chicago History Museum  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Segal Family Foundation

### \$100,000–\$249,999

Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation

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Terra Foundation for American Art

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The Grainger Foundation  
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Illinois Tool Works  
Oil-Dri Corporation of America  
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Sidley Austin LLP  
TAWANI Foundation  
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National Museum of Mexican Art  
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The Abra Wilkin Fund

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Loewenberg Charitable Foundation  
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Old Republic International Corp.  
Frederick Henry Prince Testamentary Trust  
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Two Girls and a Hammer LLC  
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Midwest Mechanical  
Murray & Virginia Vale Foundation  
PJH & Associates, Inc.  
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc.  
Robert and Mayari Pritzker Family Foundation  
Sahara Enterprises, Inc. Fund  
Sally Mead Hands Foundation  
Henry Schein Inc.  
Scott Byron & Co., Inc.  
SP Plus Corporation  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc  
The Van Nice Foundation  
Williams Family Charitable Foundation  
Winthrop Foundation Trust

### \$500–\$999

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