

How Dry I Am: Milwaukee Prohibition

Prohibition is considered one of the largest legislative interventions in the history of the United States. At the same time the 1920s were more than just flappers, speakeasies, and bootleggers. What were the roots of the movement and how did people resist it? This talk explores the people, places, and organizations instrumental in the Prohibition movement and 1920s Milwaukee.

Brew City Black Ball: the Untold Story of Black Baseball in Milwaukee

Milwaukee's baseball history, much like the history of the city itself, is incredibly diverse, yet all too often forgotten or overlooked. While the major league presence of the Braves and Brewers dominates the story of professional baseball in Milwaukee, there were significant contributions made by Black people in the city during the era of segregated baseball. This presentation uncovers that history in telling the stories of the McCoy-Nolan Giants and the Milwaukee Bears, two all-Black professional teams that called Milwaukee home during the 1920s.

Custom Talks Available


You are invited to request a presentation on a specific topic and if our resources allow, we are happy to create a presentation specifically for your group, lecture, or other event. Custom prices begin at \$200.

Additional Information

- ◆ Presentations must be scheduled in advance. We request that you contact the Society **a minimum of 2 weeks, but no more 6 months, before your desired date.**
- ◆ Presentations are usually 45 minutes to one hour but can be adjusted by request.

Pricing Information

- ◆ For offsite /virtual presentations, a minimum donation of **\$125** is requested to cover staff time. Additional fees may be assessed for travel, presentations outside business hours, and custom presentations.
- ◆ For onsite presentations, a donation of **\$100** is requested and includes access to the museum for up to 25 people. Additional fees may be assessed for additional attendees, presentations outside business hours, and custom

 Presentations available virtually

To inquire about a presentation, please call

414.273.8288 or email

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2022 Speaker Presentations

The Milwaukee County Historical Society staff offers on-site and off-site presentations about a variety of topics related to Milwaukee County history.

The following is a list of popular presentation topics based on the areas of expertise of the staff and topics that are often requested.

A City of Three Rivers

Milwaukee's development depended on three rivers coming together at what is now a busy harbor, and continues to celebrate life on the water, with recreational and commercial use, the Coast Guard, lighthouses and stories of sail, steam and speed. As a significant watershed, the map of water sources in the area shows urban, rural and city settings for these three arteries that lead to the gateway to the Great Lakes.

Milwaukee: City of Festivals

While most people think of the festivals held at H. Maier Festival Park, the origins of the city's passion for festivals goes back to the mid 19th century—from the earliest Sangerfests and Turnfest to the major festivals of today.

Digging Through the Years

The Research Library of the Milwaukee County Historical Society has a wide variety of information about the history of the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. Whether you are researching your family history or have an interest in a particular part of our local history, our collections may have the information you are looking for. (Combine with a trip to the MHCS Archives for an additional fee)

The War to End All Wars

This lecture will examine the Milwaukee home front during World War I and will discuss the good, the bad, and the ugly sides of how city residents responded to the military, social, and economic demands of the conflict.

Improvisation, Syncopation, & Swing Notes

Ever since John H. Wickcliffe and his Famous Ginger Jazz Band played at the Schlitz Palm Garden in the late 1910s, Milwaukee has had a small, but vibrant jazz community. This talk discusses some of the principle figures and venues that have contributed to the rich history of **Milwaukee's jazz scene and how that scene fits in to the national context.**

Billie the Brownie

From the 1920's to the 1950's Milwaukee kids would gather around the radio to hear Billie the Brownie and the report from the North Pole. A special holiday memory.

Milwaukee's Holiday Traditions

Remember the Holiday Parade, decorated windows Downtown, holiday lights and other local traditions? Let's reminisce.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Milwaukee has always been a city that loves baseball. This presentation hits it out of the park for sports lovers.

Milwaukee's Founders

The individual backgrounds, goals and achievement of three very different people contributed to the success of this landscape divided by the rivers. Settlement was competitive, but the local ingredients created a thriving metropolis. Get to know these entrepreneurs and understand their unique gifts and shortcomings, and our group inheritance of courageous stories.

The Wisconsin State Fair is a Great State Fair!

From its 1851 start in Janesville to its current location in West Allis, learn about the history of this annual event.

On with the Show:

Going to the Theater in Milwaukee

Take a nostalgic look at Milwaukee's rich theater heritage, from the early days of the city's legitimate stage theaters to the rise and fall and rise again of its movie theaters.

Through the Lens of a Master

Featuring photographs taken by reclusive amateur photographer Lyle Oberwise, this talk is devoted to the work of this prodigious documentarian. All images are from the Lyle Oberwise Collection housed at the Historical Society.

Letters from the Front

In years past, the written letter brought news from soldiers, kept families connected and relayed orders to the troops. We'll consult correspondence and dispatches from MCHS's various War collections for news from the front and at home.

The CCC: Roosevelt's New Deal Conservation Program

The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Milwaukee County.

