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ONE COMMUNITY ONE BOOK • MAY 2019
Celebrating Buffalo's 1901 Pan-American Exposition!



Library's "2019 One Community One Book" Initiative Focuses on Buffalo's 1901 Pan-American Exposition, Amplified by Author Visit, Author Margaret Creighton to Participate in Free Programming

The 2019 "One Community One Book" selected title for community-wide reading and discussion, -- *The Electrifying Fall of Rainbow City: Spectacle and Assassination at the 1901 World's Fair* by WNY native Margaret Creighton —was "an easy choice that hits close to home" according to Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "The Pan-American Exposition clearly put Buffalo on the map nationally and internationally in 1901, and as one of Buffalo's most spectacular stories, it easily bears frequent revisiting and discussion by the community.

Author Margaret Creighton will return to Buffalo May 8-10 to present on her book and the enduring intrigue of the Pan-Am over a century later on **Wednesday, May 8 at 6 p.m.** at The Buffalo History Museum, One Museum Court, Buffalo. This event is free; copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. She also will present on **Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Clarence Public Library, 3 Town Place in Clarence, also a free event.

A series of programs on Pan-Am themes continues through May and is detailed on a new calendar available on the Library's website www.BuffaloLib.org, at The Buffalo History Museum, all Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries and at partner organizations which include the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, Explore Buffalo, Forest Lawn Cemetery and the Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center. This year's programs, based around the Exposition and Creighton's book, include several Pan-Am walking and bus tour opportunities, the History Museum's "Pan-Am Weekend" showcasing Exposition artifacts and activities, book club discussions, children's programs relating to the Pan-Am's temporary architecture and its pioneering use of electricity. A related Ten-Minute Play reading event of short original works by local playwrights inspired by historic photographs of the Exposition is also scheduled.

Margaret Creighton descends from a long WNY line of teachers, Lackawanna steel workers, writers, bookshop owners and a publisher of the *Buffalo Express*. After attending school in Buffalo, she earned her Master's and Ph.D. degrees at Boston University and subsequently taught history at Bates College in Maine. Her books have focused on figures bypassed by many American historians. Her titles include *Dogwatch and Liberty Days* and *Rites and Passages* on the social life of sailors in the 1800s; *Iron Men, Wooden Women* highlighting the ways women, gender and sexuality shaped seafaring culture; *The Colors of Courage*, finalist for the Lincoln Prize, on the story of the Battle of Gettysburg from the vantage point of black and white civilians caught in the crossfire of the Civil War's greatest conflict and *The Electrifying Fall of Rainbow City*, her study of Buffalo's moment that in many ways forecast the social and economic struggles to come in the young 20th century. She writes of President McKinley and his assassination that changed the course of the Exposition, Buffalo and the nation, but also many of the Exposition's lesser known features involving "human cultural exhibits," daredevils and menagerists, investors and hucksters. A main character in her view is the city of Buffalo itself and its resilience in the face of the Exposition's exuberant triumph and devastating tragedy.

Copies of Creighton's book are available for borrowing through the Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries.

The "One Community One Book" initiative was designed in 2017 to encourage community-wide reading and shared discussion. The annual title selection and programs are determined through a community committee of partners including representatives of the Libraries, University at Buffalo Libraries, Clarence Public Schools, Barnes & Noble Bookseller and Monkey See Monkey Do Bookshop.

Further information on May activities is available at www.BuffaloLib.org and by calling 716-858-8900.

Tags:[Margaret Creighton](#)[One Community One Book](#)

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