

# ArkyFacts

## SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Irwin Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

### MARCH - 2019

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|----------|--|
| March 21 | Pauline Saliga, MA ~ 7:30 PM<br>"Rethinking Middens for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century:<br>Excavations at Charnley-Persky House" |
| April 1  | Officers' Meeting ~ 7:30 PM<br>Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood  |
| April 18 | Susanne Paulus, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM<br>"Debt, Crime and Prison —<br>Daily Life in Ancient Babylonia"                               |

Deadline for material to be included in the next  
Arkyfacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.

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Charnley-Persky House

# ArkyFacts

March 2019

Thursday, March 21 – 7:30 PM

RETHINKING MIDDENS FOR THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY:  
EXCAVATIONS AT CHARNLEY-PERSKY HOUSE

By Pauline Saliga, MA

When a 2003 construction project unearthed a 19<sup>th</sup> century midden behind their offices located in a landmark house in Chicago, the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) knew they had stumbled on an intellectual goldmine. The midden, a rich collection of more than 26,000 artifacts from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, was located adjacent to the back wall of the storied Charnley-Persky House, built for Helen and James Charnley, a 19<sup>th</sup> century serial entrepreneur who worked in steel and lumber. Designed by two luminaries in Chicago architecture, Louis H. Sullivan, and his draftsman Frank Lloyd Wright, the house was built in 1891-1892, when the Adler and Sullivan architectural office was at the height of its success.

The midden, a bit of a mystery, has led SAH Executive Director Pauline Saliga and Sociologist/Archaeologist Rebecca Graff of Lake Forest College, on a nine-year collaboration trying to make sense of the midden through two student digs in 2010 and 2015.

Join SAH Executive Director Pauline Saliga as she discusses her collaboration with Graff, the findings of the two digs, the types of materials unearthed, and what the artifacts tell us about the residents of the Gold Coast neighborhood where Charnley-Persky House is located.

Trained as an architectural historian, Saliga has organized dozens of architecture and design exhibitions, first at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and later in the Department of Architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago. She came to the SAH in 1995, and has been the steward of Charnley-Persky House through several major restorations and two archaeological digs.

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Save these Dates.....Our Annual SSAS Banquet will be held on Thursday, June 20 at Flossmoor Station in downtown Flossmoor. And, our summer weekend excursion to Cahokia will take place on July 19/20/21. Further information about both of these events will be posted soon.

Our Next Business Meeting..... will be on Monday, April 1 at 7:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, 18219 Dixie Hwy., Homewood.

*If you've not already done so, please remember to send in your 2019 Membership Application.*

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

**Search:** "South Suburban Archaeological Society on Weebly"

**OR:** <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>

**OR:** <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>



**South Suburban Chapter Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at: NITEL

## CHICAGO'S GOLD COAST

Chicago's Gold Coast is a historic district. Part of Chicago's Near North Side community area, it is roughly bounded by North Avenue, Lake Shore Drive, Oak Street and Clark Street.

The Gold Coast neighborhood grew in the wake of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. In 1882 millionaire Potter Palmer moved to the area from the Prairie Avenue neighborhood on the city's south side. He filled in a swampy area which later became Lake Shore Drive, and built the Palmer Mansion, a 42-room castle-like structure designed by Henry Ives Cobb and Charles Sumner Frost. His home became the center of Chicago's high society. Mrs. (Bertha) Palmer had an extensive collection of Impressionist paintings, many of which now belong to the Art Institute of Chicago.

Other wealthy Chicagoans followed Palmer into the neighborhood, which became one of the richest in Chicago. In the late 1980's, the Gold Coast and neighboring Streeterville comprised the second most affluent neighborhood in the United States, right behind Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Today, the neighborhood is a mixture of mansions, row houses, and high-rise apartments. Highlights include the Astor Street District and the **James Charnley House**.

The district was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

(Note: The East Lake Shore Drive District and parts of northern Streeterville and the Magnificent Mile near the lake also may be considered part of the Gold Coast even if not technically in the historic designation. Some maps extend the Gold Coast south to the area of Northwestern University's Chicago campus.)

*Gold Coast Neighbor's Association/Wikipedia*

## SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS ONLINE RESOURCES

Pauline Saliga has specialized in developing the following online publications for SAH:

**JSAH Online**.....one of the first scholarly journals to be illustrated by multimedia.

**SAHARA**.....a shared online architectural image archive for preserving and sharing individuals' images for teaching and research.

**SAH Archipedia**.....an open-access online encyclopedia of American architecture.

For further information on Charnley-Persky House, visit [www.charnleyhouse.org/](http://www.charnleyhouse.org/)

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**SSAS** members who are also members of **IAAA** .....

Hard copy *Arkyfacts* recipients will receive 2019 IAAA membership cards with this month's newsletter. For email *Arkyfacts* recipients, your membership cards will be available at the reception desk during the March 21 program. (If you've signed up for IAAA membership but do not receive a membership card this month, your card will arrive soon!)