

# ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the  
SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

## NOVEMBER - 2020

December	HOLIDAY BREAK
Monday, January 4	Officers' Meeting ~ 6:30 PM Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood Host: Barbara McDonough
Thursday, January 21	Dr. Marisa Fontana ~ 7:30 PM "Identifying Warfare in the Archaeological Record"

Deadline for material to be included in the next  
ArkyFacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.  
Contact Susan Saric

For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need  
because of a disability, contact SSAS President Will Kelley.

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November 2020



## 2021 SSAS Officer Nominations / January Program

Our current slate of 2021 officer nominations is as follows: President-Will Kelley; Vice-President & Treasurer-Warren Hastings; Corresponding Secretary-Barbara McDonough; Recording Secretary-Susan Saric; Trustees-Dave Swanson, Suzanne Skowronek. We are in need of a third Trustee. PLEASE...consider volunteering to serve on our Board. We meet once a month, absolutely no experience is necessary, and there's always plenty of pizza and good conversation!

If it's safe to gather, we hope to resume regularly scheduled programming on January 21, 2021 with a presentation by Dr. Marisa Fontana of North Central College on *Identifying Warfare in the Archaeological Record*. We also hope to hold 2021 officer elections at that time. Please continue to look for programming updates in our monthly newsletters and on our website, *South Suburban Archaeological Society*.

## Membership News

Enclosed is your 2021 Membership Application. All 2020 SSAS members will be entitled to the same level of SSAS membership in 2021 with no payment required; however, we still need your application form in order to keep our records up to date. The IAAA will follow its regular dues structure in 2021. For any questions regarding 2021 membership, please contact SSAS Membership Chairman Milan Saric.

**In Memoriam.....**We were saddened to learn of the passing of Gwenyth Baker, one of the founding members of SSAS. Gwen was a kind and wonderful lady, and a dedicated, hardworking Board member for many years. Our deepest condolences go out to her family and friends.

**Business Meeting.....**Our next business meeting will be on Monday, January 4 - 6:30 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood. Our host will be Barbara McDonough.

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***This is our final newsletter of 2020. Watch for our next ArkyFacts in January. We extend our very best wishes to all for a Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!***

Bookmarks! Find us online.....


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

**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

## The “Original” Mayflower Steps

A set of steps built in Plymouth, England in 1934 commemorates the location where the Pilgrims are said to have left England on the *Mayflower* (400 years ago in 1620) to settle in North America. Tourists have flocked here for decades to view and photograph the Pilgrims’ historic point of departure. However, many say that the actual location of the steps is not where tourists line up every year, but rather a few feet away, beneath the ladies toilets in the Admiral MacBride pub, which was built over the original steps some 300 years ago. This would put the possible locale of some of the most famous steps in history in a surprising, yet cheeky spot!



*1934 Steps & Observation Deck*



*The Admiral MacBride*

*South West News Service, UK*

## The First Thanksgiving ~ in Florida?

The nation’s first Thanksgiving took place near the Matanzas River in St. Augustine, Florida - more than 50 years before the first Pilgrim feast in 1621. It was here that Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez de Aviles and 800 soldiers, sailors and settlers joined local native Timucuan people in a feast that followed a Mass of Thanksgiving--according to Kathleen Deagan, Distinguished Research Curator Emerita of Historical Archaeology at the Florida Museum/University of Florida.

A Thanksgiving Mass was common practice for sailors after a tumultuous expedition. The 68 days that it took Menendez and his followers to get to Florida’s shore had not been easy. After leaving Spain with 8 ships, the group arrived in Florida with only 4. Half of the original expedition had been lost to hurricanes and other hardships. “Of those who made it to Florida, whether in search of riches and improved social standing or new opportunities like owning land, all were probably thankful to be alive and on dry land,” said Deagan.



There would have been no cranberry sauce or pumpkin pie, but rather an assortment of foods such as salted pork, garbanzo beans, olives, hard sea biscuits and red wine shipped from Spain. The meal may also have included Caribbean foods, such as yucca, that were probably collected when Menendez stopped to regroup and resupply at San Juan, Puerto Rico, before continuing on to Florida. If the Timucua contributed, it would likely have been with corn, fresh fish, berries or beans.

*Excerpted from Stephenie Livingston - Florida Museum/University of Florida*