

# 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

## OCTOBER - 2021

Thursday,      Dr. Marisa Fontana ~ 7:30 PM  
October 21      "The Archaeological Identification  
                         Of Prehistoric Warfare"

(NOTE: Dr. Fontana will be appearing in person at the Irwin Center.)

Monday,          Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM  
November 1      Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood

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

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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Thursday, October 21 ~ 7:30 PM

## “The Archaeological Identification of Prehistoric Warfare”

with Dr. Marisa Fontana

When looking for signs of warfare & other violent behaviors in the archaeological record, most people assume that archaeologists look strictly for skeletal trauma in burials. While human remains do provide convincing and direct evidence for warfare, both past and present, research involving skeletal evidence is especially controversial for many Native American communities. Often the act of excavating human remains is interpreted by indigenous societies as the disturbance and destruction of ancestral graves, which is a violation of many cultures’ spiritual beliefs and practices, and which has often been ignored by archaeologists in the past. Today, many archaeologists aim to be more sensitive to the wishes of indigenous communities and avoid disturbing or excavating skeletal materials altogether. Instead, we look to other lines of evidence that can inform on the complex nature of violence in the past.



One way of examining warfare without utilizing skeletal remains involves the investigation of intentionally burned sites, the presence of “no-man’s lands” between communities, studying iconography, reading written accounts of violence, and analyzing the features of defensive architecture. Dr. Fontana will discuss how some of these lines of evidence can be used to inform on warfare-related events.



Dr. Marisa Fontana is an archaeological anthropologist specializing in Native American warfare of the pre-contact period. Her main research interests involve the relationships between indigenous cultures of North America prior to the arrival of Europeans, particularly the tactics these cultures used when in conflict with one another.

**PLEASE NOTE: Dr. Fontana will be appearing LIVE and IN PERSON at the Irwin Center.** We respectfully request that masks be worn while in the Center. For those who wish to view this program remotely via Zoom, please see our insert page.

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

## How to Remotely View our October Presentation:

The presentation will be simulcast as a Zoom meeting, for the convenience of those who may have difficulty attending in person at the Irwin Center.



Anyone interested in participating through Zoom should send an email requesting access to [southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com](mailto:southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com). Those who are not members of the South Suburban Archaeological Society are also welcome to use Zoom, but should include enough information in the email to verify their identity.

A day or two before the meeting, the host will respond with an invitation to attend through Zoom.

Questions about remote viewing? Contact Will Kelley at (773)268-6705.

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**International Archaeology Day (IAD)** is October 16! Visit the website of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) to find out more about IAD programs and activities for all ages.

**Business Meeting** ~ Our final business meeting of 2021 is scheduled for Monday, November 1 - 6:00 PM at Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood. Our hosts will be Susan & Milan Saric.

**2022 Membership** ~ Included in this newsletter is our 2022 SSAS/IAAA Membership Application. There will be no fee increases next year for SSAS or IAAA memberships. For questions, contact SSAS Membership Chairman Milan Saric.

## Great Chicago Fire Tours ~150 Years Later

The Great Chicago Fire was a conflagration that burned in the city during October 8-10, 1871. The fire killed approximately 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles of the city, and left more than 100,000 residents homeless.

During the month of October, the Chicago History Museum (CHM), in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) and Windy City Limousine, will sponsor bus tours that follow the Great Chicago Fire's path of destruction and highlight the resiliency of the city during its recovery.



*Currier & Ives*

As a CAC docent provides commentary, you can learn how the site of the fire's starting point on DeKoven Street became the Chicago Fire Department's training facility. You'll trace the fire's route to its northern boundaries in Lincoln Park, and along the way, learn about "fireproof" buildings that burned, the few structures that survived, and the everyday residents who rebuilt the city.

These tours will be offered on October 17, 24, and 31.

Visit the Chicago History Museum website for additional information or call the museum at (312)642-4600.

**\$50** (\$42 CHM and CAC members). *Tour runs 2 hours.*

