

# Hemingway Despatch

P.O. Box 2222, Oak Park, Illinois, 60303-2222

## “Love in the Time of Influenza: The Hemingways of Oak Park and the 1918 Pandemic” Susan Beegel to Deliver 2008 Hemingway Birthday Lecture

Susan Beegel, scholar and longtime friend of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park, will give the 2008 Hemingway Birthday Lecture.

Beegel, who presented a keynote address at Oak Park’s 1999 Hemingway Centennial Literary Conference, holds a Ph.D. in English from Yale University. She is editor of *The Hemingway Review* and Adjunct Associate Professor of English at the University of Idaho.

Beegel was editor of *Hemingway’s Neglected Short Fiction: New Perspectives* and co-editor of *Teaching Hemingway’s “A Farewell to Arms,” Teaching Hemingway’s “The Sun Also Rises,”* and *Steinbeck and the Environment: Interdisciplinary Approaches*.

Beegel is author of many articles on Ernest Hemingway and American literature and history. She has also worked on a number of television documentaries and appeared in several. Beegel is currently working on condensing and updating Michael Reynolds’s five volume biography of Ernest Hemingway into a single volume for W. W. Norton.

Beegel’s Hemingway Birthday Lecture will be entitled “Love in the Time of Influenza: The Hemingways of Oak Park and the 1918 Pandemic.” It is estimated that between 30 million and 100 million people died of influenza worldwide in 1918. “During the epidemic, Hemingway was hospitalized in Italy, where approximately 600,000 people died and



Susan Beegel and Ernest Hemingway sculpture at the Hemingway Museum in Oak Park, Illinois.

his lover Agnes von Kurowsky was sent away to work at army hospitals where so many medical staff were sick or dead that patients were dying of neglect,” Beegel said. Around 14,000 people died in the Chicago area, where every member of Hemingway’s family had his/her life touched in some way—as family letters to Hemingway from his parents and siblings show.”

Beegel said that “The experience had a profound impact on *A Farewell to Arms* and the short story ‘In Another Country’ and is recapped in an unpublished short story Hemingway may have written while hospitalized. It all makes a heck of a story, which ought to be of interest in these days when people are worried about SARS, bird flu, and biological

warfare—and much of the story takes place in Oak Park.”

The Hemingway Birthday Lecture will be given at the Hemingway Museum, 200 North Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, at 7 p.m., Monday July 21, 2008. As is customary, the event will feature birthday cake and a sparkling toast to one of America’s greatest writers.

Tickets will be \$7 for Foundation members and \$10 for non-members. For further information call (708) 848-2222.

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# New EHFOP Board Members

Allison Sansone, Administrative Director, EHFOP

The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park welcomed four new board members recently.



Nancy W. Sindelar is a consultant, teacher, and author. She published *Using Test Data for Student Achievement: Answers to No Child Left Behind* in 2006. She worked in public education for 33 years, retiring in 2002 from DuPage High School District 88, where she was Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Her interest in Ernest Hemingway was nurtured during her tenure as an English teacher at Oak Park and River Forest High School, where she taught American Literature and American Studies. Sindelar holds a B.S. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from DePaul University, a C.A.S. from Concordia University and a Ph.D. from Loyola University. Having lived in River Forest for 32 years, she and her husband, Chuck, now live in Chicago.

Ernest Hemingway was nurtured during her tenure as an English teacher at Oak Park and River Forest High School, where she taught American Literature and American Studies. Sindelar holds a B.S. from Northwestern University, an M.A. from DePaul University, a C.A.S. from Concordia University and a Ph.D. from Loyola University. Having lived in River Forest for 32 years, she and her husband, Chuck, now live in Chicago.

“My students loved the action and ritual found in his novels, and it was interesting and fun to trace many of Hemingway’s influences back to his early days in Oak Park and to his writing and activities while at Oak Park and River Forest High School,” she said. “I am thrilled and honored to be a member of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park Board and have thoroughly enjoyed the Foundation meetings and activities to date.”

John W. Berry is Executive Director of NILRC: Network of Illinois Learning Resources in Community Colleges, based in Chicago. The thirty-five year old consortium has fifty member institutions across Illinois and Missouri. Berry was Director of Advancement and Research Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago (1990-96). He is a widely published author and frequent lecturer; his areas of research interest include digital libraries, intellectual property, distance learning, library building design and fundraising for libraries. Berry served as ALA’s 118th President in 2001-02. He is currently President of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees (the legal defense arm of the ALA) and is past chair of ALA’s International Relations Committee. As President of the Illinois Center for the Book, Berry presented the dedication plaque honoring America’s great writers to the Hemingway Foundation on the 100th Birthday celebration at the Hemingway Birthplace Home in 1999.



“As a Past President of the American Library Association, it seemed appropriate to give back to Oak Park/River Forest, my home for the past 17 years, by bringing my knowledge and experience to a great board keeping the rather large life of Ernest Hemingway in the public eye,” Berry said.



Wendell G. Rayburn, Sr. is native of Detroit, Michigan, receiving his education in the Detroit Public Schools. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Eastern Michigan State University and a Doctor of Education from Wayne State University. He was a teacher and administrator in the Detroit Public Schools for thirteen

years before entering higher education as former president of Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, and Savannah State University in Savannah, Georgia. He also held academic and administrative posts at the University of Louisville and the University of Detroit. Dr. Rayburn also has extensive experience as a consultant in the areas of human relations and as a facilitator and faculty member in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ New President’s Academy and the Experienced President’s Academy. He is currently a senior associate with Penson Associates, a research and consulting firm based in Tampa, Florida. He has served on many boards and received numerous awards.

“Hemingway was one of my favorite authors when I took an English literature course in college many years ago,” Rayburn said. “Among the many authors I read, Hemingway was the most impressive and talented writer. As the years rolled by, I learned more about his life and times through reading and when I visited his home and museum in Key West Florida some years ago. I was impressed even more as I learned more about him. I also thought that being a member of this distinguished board would give me an opportunity to serve the community of Oak Park as a newcomer.”



Stan West, a former foreign correspondent for the San Francisco-based Pacific News Service, remains a working journalist, reporting for WNUA 95.5 FM Chicago, a Clear Channel Broadcast radio station. A documentarian who co-coordinates the Oak Park International Film Festival and the Columbia

College Film Series on “Poverty and Privilege,” West has written and co-authored several nonfiction books. He teaches writing and television at Columbia College Chicago.

West said he is interested in Hemingway’s “complex views” on race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. A scholar of American expatriate literature, West traveled to Hemingway’s haunts in Madrid and Paris and taught his twin sons (now at Hemingway’s old high school) to love the author as well: “Jordan read *Death in the Afternoon* when he was with me in Madrid visiting brutal bullfights,” West said. “Amman read *The Sun Also Rises* when he was with me chillin’ at cozy Parisian cafes. Hemingway’s exploits were legendary and his own memoir *A Moveable Feast* made them even more so, much to the chagrin of some who thought he exaggerated some events and made up others. Whatever the truth about him, being on the EHFOP board is a continuation of my inquiry into the man, his work, and his effect on many diverse communities. I feel honored to be here.”

## The Ernest Hemingway Foundation's Silver Anniversary

Twenty five years ago this summer, the perseverance of Morris Buske and his wife Dorothy was rewarded. The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park they had long envisioned was chartered on June 28, 1983, with the energetic support of community leaders and Hemingway scholars.

Its founding culminated the efforts of a few Oak Parkers to promote greater local recognition of Ernest Hemingway, a Villager already appreciated worldwide. Thus began the Foundation's first year, which climaxed with its Hemingway Celebration in 1984, garnering widespread support from the Village and throughout the country.

The Foundation's public tribute to what its first newsletter, the *Hemingway Dispatch* [sic], touted as Oak Park's "most famous native son" began Friday, July 20, 1984, and continued through his birthday the following day. An ambitious series of events explored many facets of the author's life and work through a slide program, panel discussion, tours of his birthplace and boyhood home, exhibits, parties, an original play and several films.

This year, we intend to remind Oak Park and the world of that foundational year and the twenty-four years that were built on it. This silver anniversary year begins by celebrating Ernest's birthday on July 21. It continues with old friends, including Hemingway family members and scholars, recalling a quarter century of remarkable achievements. With this inspiration, the Foundation will delve more deeply into Ernest's story, finish the restoration of the Birthplace Home and advance the development of the Boyhood Home. The Foundation plans to cap its upcoming silver anniversary year, as it did its first one, with a major Hemingway birthday celebration. On that 110th anniversary of Ernest's birth, EHFOP intends to share its deepening appreciation of his enduring legacy with all who participate from Oak Park and beyond.

### Mission Statement

*The Ernest Hemingway Foundation fosters understanding of the life and work of Ernest Hemingway with emphasis on his Oak Park origins and his impact on world literature. Its mission reflects The Foundation's belief in the importance of the written word and the value of thoughtful reading and writing.*

### Message from Allan Baldwin, Chair



The Hemingway Foundation is now in the busy season for visitors to our Museum and Birthplace Home. In addition to local visitors and those from around the country, many foreign visitors find their way to our doors. About 20% of our visitors come from outside the United States. I don't think I am exaggerating to say they are some of our most enthusiastic guests. For many, it was research in their home countries and a special trip to find us in Oak Park.

Jane Rishel, Conni Irwin and I were recently at the Museum when a group of five Korean visitors arrived at 4:50 p.m. They were excited to visit us even though their time was limited. We stayed until 5:45 p.m. when they left but not before we consented to having our photos taken with them!

When I think of the trouble they went through to find us and how excited they were to be at the Hemingway Museum, it makes the hours spent volunteering worthwhile. If you are not volunteering now, give it a try and you may have similar experiences.

The Foundation has been in the media lately. On June 13 the Hemingway Foundation, along with other Oak Park attractions, was featured in a program titled "One Tank Trips: Oak Park" on the ABC 7 News Morning Show. Founding Board member Redd Griffin was interviewed by Roz Varon, and video was presented of the Museum and Birthplace Home. There is also a 60 second ad running on WGN radio in late June. The Ernest Hemingway Foundation is now on Facebook and has about 200 fans at last count. Sign on to connect with other Hemingway fans!

As Chair of the Foundation, I find that a significant portion of my responsibility is to find the money to keep our organization going. We make some money on our admissions and the sale of merchandise at the Hemingway Museum Store but this does not nearly cover our expenses. There are many ways you can help. Come to our Wine Auction Benefit October 26, renew your membership, send in an extra donation, donate appreciated stock, consider a gift to the Foundation in your will, donate to the Foundation's endowment fund. And there are many other ways. Only with your help can we continue to support our mission.

# The Hemingway Family and the Influenza Epidemic

Rose Marie Burwell

Grace Hemingway was very close to her only sibling, Leicester Hall, and gave her last son her brother's name—as she had given her first son his maternal grandfather's name. Their correspondence (in the Hemingway family papers at the University of Texas) documents the mutual sensitivity and concern of Grace and her brother during and after the Spanish influenza period.

Leicester was practicing law in California when he was called for military duty. His wife, Vada, died of influenza on 6 November, 1918. On 23 December, he wrote to Grace that he had received her letter of sympathy before he was notified that his wife had died and he did not, at first, understand the subject of which she was talking. On his return to California, he stopped to see Grace and her family in Oak Park. From his letter to her after his return home, it is clear that Leicester had noted a high level of tension in the Hemingway household, and that Grace confided to him some things about its source. In fact, he asks her if his letters to her are opened and read by her alone, and invites her to bring the “little

children” and come visit him for a few months, offering to pay her fare.

Grace and her youngest son, “little Leicester,” went to California for nearly six months. She enrolled him in kindergarten there and set about bringing to order Leicester's home, which had been left exactly as it was at Vada's death. One cannot but feel the poignancy in Grace's accounts of her daily work: the last laundry Vada had done was lying folded on the dining room table, no cleaning had been done, and her brother had given little attention to his own living conditions.

In the milieu of Leicester's mourning, Grace also had to cope with daily letters from her husband, Clarence, that are rife with mentions of how tired he is and how badly he needs her presence. The fatigue seems to be mingled with depression, to which he was susceptible, and with anxiety, which was nearly constant throughout his life. His emotional neediness and fatigue may also have been exacerbated by the fact that, although Oak Park had comparatively

fewer cases of influenza, the infected were primarily cared for at home—by a public health recommendation—and physicians must have made many house calls. Further, a physician had to accompany every troop train originating in the Chicago area to its induction destination.

An Oak Park man died at the Great Lakes Naval Training Facility, but the regular instructions on the recognition and treatment of influenza can be seen in the *Oak Leaves* during the summer and fall of 1918. After Grace's return to Oak Park, Leicester advises his sister: “I hope your trials are not as great as they have been and that some kind of solution may gradually work out . . .” We will probably never know what the specific points of conflict were between the Hemingways at the time, but in these family papers the drama of filial devotion is framed by the influenza pandemic in these two households half a continent apart. Love in the time of influenza, indeed!



## Carlene Brennan, Author of *Hemingway's Cats* at Hemingway Museum

Carlene Brennan, photojournalist and author of *Hemingway's Cats*, published in 2006, spoke at the Ernest Hemingway Museum on May 17, 2008, in an event planned in cooperation with Oak Park's Animal Care League. Brennan's presentation, entitled “Hemingway's Cats: The Gentler Side of Ernest Hemingway,” described the affinity

the famous author had for cats and the comfort and enjoyment they contributed to his life.

Brennan, who spent over a decade in research for her book, found photographs and reminiscences from biographers, family and friends which cast a warm light on the animal-loving side of Ernest Hemingway. Cat-associated nicknames were given to people he loved. Strays and neighbors' cats were drawn

to him in Key West, and there were said to be 57 cats at the Finca Vigia in Cuba. “There was a gentle, loving side to Ernest Hemingway that most biographers chose to ignore,” Brennan said, “No person loved his cats more.”

After her talk, Brennan signed books and answered questions. A cat lover herself, she gladly supported the volunteers who had brought cats available for adoption from the Animal Care League.

Brennan also co-authored *Hemingway in Cuba* with Hilary Hemingway. It was published in 2003.

Brennan and her husband, Terry, who had traveled to Oak Park from their home in Fort Meyers, Florida, also visited the Hemingway Archives at the Oak Park Public Library.

Brennan's book is available at the Hemingway Museum Book Store.

## Editor's Column

# Kansas City Conference: Hemingway + Ink

Maryanne Rusinak

Thank you to the Hemingway Society for organizing The "13th Biennial International Hemingway Conference: Hemingway + Ink" held June 9-15 in Kansas City. Those of us from Oak Park were definitely glad we attended. We are still talking about it.

The Society's programming was remarkably creative, and the hospitality of our hosts was outstanding. We won't soon forget how the *Kansas City Star* people feted us with hors d'oeuvres and tours of their plant on a lovely June evening.

And the Midwest proved it has a lot to offer: Kansas City's museums, jazz clubs, and restaurants are as good as to be found anywhere, with a particular flavor of their own with Kansas City as the true gateway to the West (and the Santa Fe and California Trails) according to Mark Zieman, Publisher of the *Kansas City Star*. Certainly Hemingway's writing style is indebted to the *Kansas City Star* style sheet with its "economy of words" and "forceful language." An example from the early twentieth century "The Star Copy Style":

**"Use short sentences. Use short first paragraphs. Use vigorous English . . . Eliminate every superfluous word."**

Steve Paul said it was in covering police incidents and hospital stories at the *Star* that Hemingway learned to "transfer truths of life into his fiction." *Star* publisher Zieman said that Hemingway managed to concentrate the equivalent of three years' experience into his less than one year spent in Kansas City. Hemingway must have agreed, as he writes in his letter home that he is "mentally fagged," "bushed," and is quitting the *Star* to "go fishing and to rest." He must have found his work at the *Star* to be a significant well of inspiration, since he later refers to his Kansas City experience in five of his novels and in six short stories.

Listening to talks by the stunning lineup of Hemingway scholars was great, providing attendees with fascinating insights into continuing Hemingway research by both eminent scholars and talented younger scholars.

See some of you in October at the Michigan Conference.



Milton Cohen, University of Texas at Dallas, with Jan Byrne from Michigan Hemingway Society who spoke on her and her husband James's work titled "Enlightening Myth: Anson Hemingway and the War Between the States"



Oak Park representatives at Kansas City Conference: Bill and Virginia Cassin, Maryanne Rusinak, and Scott Schwar.



Susan Beegel and Audre Hanneman, a renowned Hemingway bibliographer, at the Kansas City Conference kickoff breakfast.



Jan Byrne and Carole Underwood of Michigan Hemingway Society, with Miriam Mandel, Tel Aviv University.



Bickford Sylvester speaking on "Hemingway's Education, a Re-Examination: New Study, New Manuscripts, Other Oak Park Revelations"



Bill and Virginia Cassin with *Kansas City Star* publisher Mark Zieman after his opening talk on "The *Kansas City Star* Connection."

# Hemingway's Boat

## by Paul Hendrickson: an Excerpt

To the readers of the *Despatch*: Below is a chunk of work-in-progress of a book tentatively titled *Hemingway's Boat*. For four years I have traveled through a lot of this country, as well as the Caribbean, to seek to understand Ernest Hemingway's life through the literary prism of his beloved thirty-eight-foot motor fishing cruiser, *Pilar*. I am trying to write not a biography per se—we have had enough of those!—so much as an interpretation. He owned this boat, fished her, worked her, from Key West to the Bahamas to the Dry Tortugas to Cuba—his second-to-last home—for the final twenty-seven years of his life—1934-1961. She was his, and he hers, through three wives, the Nobel Prize, all his destruction. Oak Park threads through this story.

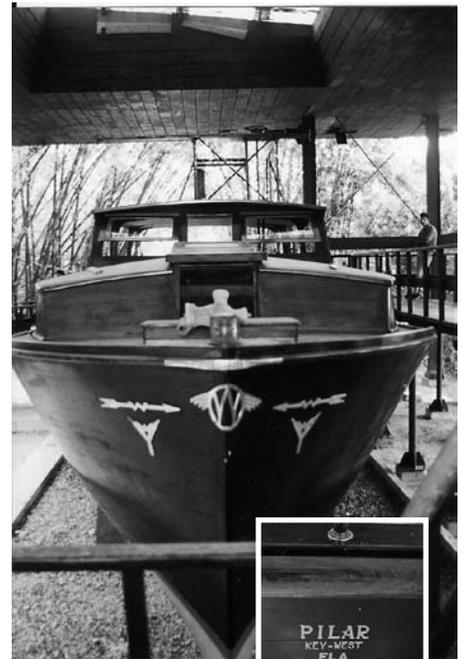
I have come to town often and feel myself in the enormous debt of many generous people at the Oak Park Hemingway Society and the Oak Park Public Library. I would make special mention of Redd Griffin, who is always available with his time and good heart. What follows is a short passage from the manuscript about Frank Lloyd Wright and Hemingway.

Two geniuses, who spent separate lifetimes flouting middle-class mores, even as they couldn't seem to escape them, overlapped for a decade in a Republican community of churches and impressive houses and upright families located eight miles west of downtown Chicago. Wright was born in rural Wisconsin in 1867, and his career in architecture lasted until his death in 1959. In seven decades of work, he designed (if not completed) over 1,000 buildings. He was in his early thirties, residing in Oak Park, struggling for commissions, with a growing family, when Ernest Hemingway came into the world in the summer of 1899. Over the next ten years, before he was forty-two, Wright would complete more than one hundred projects, many now thought

of as American masterpieces. Some architectural critics contend that those ten years represent the most fertile creative period of any architect who lived in the twentieth century.

His eccentric home and adjoining four-room studio were on Chicago Avenue, a couple of blocks from Hemingway's birthplace—in a large Queen Anne house owned by his maternal grandparents—on Oak Park Avenue. Between 1901 and 1909, while Hemingway swam to consciousness, Wright produced "Prairie" houses for adventuresome homeowners in Oak Park and other Illinois towns at the rate of about twelve a year. These houses, radical in their look, tended to hug the ground. They had low, cantilevered roofs, and overhanging eaves, and narrow art-glass windows, and specially designed interior lighting that gave the feeling of a campfire glow. Great attention was paid to the landscape on which the houses were sited. Their horizontal lines suggested the flat line of the Illinois prairie itself.

In 1905, when Hemingway was in first grade in Oak Park, the architect received his first solo public commission: erecting from recent ashes the landmark house of worship that became known as Unity Temple. The town's Universalist church had been struck by lightning and had burned to the ground. What came in its place four years later, as Wright said, "makes an entirely new architecture. . . .and is the first expression of it. That is my contribution to modern architecture." He also later said that Unity "looks easy enough now, for it is right enough," words that might equally be applied to some hard-won fiction efforts from a young author, shed of Oak Park, living in Paris in the mid-twenties. Like many easy, right, simple-looking things, Wright's religious masterpiece—his "little jewel box," he called it—was constructed on profoundly complex ideas. The design broke all



*Pilar* in dry dock at Finca Vigia in Cuba.  
Photos by Karen Glass

the conventions of American religious architecture. It took thirty-four studies to get it right. What came forth was a cubist haiku of reinforced concrete, of improbable space and light on a busy downtown corner lot that had very little space with which to work. It was as if all the details of the architect's geometric design had been left out, all the interior structure deliberately destroyed, so that the only thing that stood in the end for the congregation to experience was the two-story and light-filled central space itself. Again, such a work of seeming vacantness might put you in mind of a man trying to erect his own landmark edifices, except with words instead of stone and wood. "Unity Temple is where you will find the first real expression of my idea that the space within the building is the reality of that building," Wright once said. What did he mean—that space itself, not borders, not walls, not pulpits, not altars, not cloisters, but something you couldn't actually see, was what he aimed to make people see? It's easy to recall Hemingway stories where the white space on the page seems almost equal to the amount of print on the page. Think of "A Clean Well-Lighted Place," which itself is about the idea—or at least the feeling—

of nothing in place of a comforting something. But that story, really, must be the reverse of Wright's spiritual and mystic notions about space. The emptiness at the center of Unity Temple speaks to repose, while the emptiness at the center of "Place" is about despair: "Hail nothing full of nothing, nothing is with thee," to quote some famous lines from the story. Hemingway tamps everything down, compacts it, drives the plot with a dialogue that seems almost to wish to disappear from the page. It's as if the talk on the page would really rather be silent. Nada in nada as it is in nada.

Oak Park historians say there is no record that the egomaniacal architect and future egomaniacal author ever met or talked in their overlapping years in Oak Park. But it would be accurate—albeit fanciful—to go this far: Had he wished to, Wright, from a high stool in his octagonal drafting room, in, say, 1906 or '07 or '08, could have looked out his window, catty-corner across Chicago Avenue, and observed

the elementary schoolchildren of Oliver Wendell Holmes School at their noon play, one of whom could certainly have been one of his own children, and another of whom could certainly have been Ernest Hemingway. It's not literary or architectural scholarship—just fun—to squint and picture a roughly forty-year-old visionary gazing out on a fairly typical-seeming schoolboy named Hemingway, still in single digits, whose family name Wright may or may not have known. (I feel he almost certainly did: Hemingway's mother and Wright's wife Kitty were casual friends who came together to paint, to talk books and the suffrage movement at the Nineteenth Century Club.)

It's possible for a latter-day pilgrim to Oak Park, the more so if he's lately been in Cuba, to glimpse *Pilar* dry-docked on those broad streets with those amazing Wright constructions set back from the sidewalks. Take the Wright house at 238 Forest Avenue. It's known as the Beachy

Residence. It's in all the guidebooks. It's a huge Prairie house, constructed of stone and wood and brick. Despite the stone, the house has a timbered look—with its seven gables and oak window frames and cedar beams supporting the porch. The house, a private residence, not open to the public, doesn't face the street as a normal house would. It's perpendicular to Forest, as if put end to end, bow to stern. In its front-to-back siting on its oblong lot, the house almost resembles a boat more than a house. The wood trim is painted a chocolate brown. If you stand across the street from the house at night, with its amber light glowing from within like the lining of a shell, the Beachy Residence, worked on by Wright in 1906 (the same year the house on Kenilworth was completed), will appear as long and narrow as a parched and browned-out boat under a corrugated awning on a Havana hillside—or it did so to me, disorientingly.

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## "Picturing Hemingway" Is on the Road

A copy of "Picturing Hemingway," the Foundation's traveling exhibit developed in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery is on the road in the Midwest.

The exhibit draws on media from caricatures to photographs to depict Hemingway, his family, friends, colleagues, works and venues. The depictions, that span the author's lifetime, include many by renowned artists who knew him.

Charles Bednar, chair of the Foundation's exhibit committee, who spearheaded the Foundation's role in producing the original 1999 exhibit, is promoting and coordinating its current tour. The exhibit's first stop this year was in Galesburg, Illinois, at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site. Bednar, a member of its board, arranged to bring the exhibit



Charles Bednar and Redd Griffin cut the ribbon for the Foundation's "Picturing Hemingway" opening at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site with its Superintendent Steve Holden.

there and install it as part of that city's celebration of the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read. Galesburg's focus for its Big Read is, as Oak Park's was, Hemingway's groundbreaking novel, *A Farewell to Arms*, which the exhibit covers.

A Foundation director, Redd Griffin, helped Bednar open the exhibit with an original talk for the occasion, "Sandburg's Friend, Hemingway and the Poetry of How It Was." The exhibit

and talk were covered extensively in Galesburg and Peoria, Illinois papers and the Illinois Government News Network.

"Picturing Hemingway" was prominently displayed and well received at the International Hemingway Society Conference in Kansas City, Missouri thanks to Foundation vice chair, Virginia Cassin, and William Cassin.

The exhibit's next stop is Monmouth, Illinois, this summer, and then Aurora, Illinois, in the fall.

# Ernest Hemingway's Robust Sense of Place

Last February the Foundation had a special chance to fulfill part of its mission to promote “the written word and . . . thoughtful reading and writing.”

It came after English teachers and Hemingway enthusiasts from Wheaton North High School invited the Foundation to participate in an institute day on “the power of place (either physical or metaphorical)” with “whatever information you can share that addresses how your museum can help local English teachers who teach Hemingway . . . .”

Redd Griffin, a founding Director, responded with an original program, entitled “Ernest Hemingway’s Robust

Sense of Place.” He illustrated through lecture and readers theater how Hemingway’s growing up in the Midwest shaped his writing “how it was” on four continents, orienting people in their surroundings and leading beyond them through metaphor.

Griffin gave his program to a roomful of English and language arts educators, mostly well-read in Hemingway, from public and private middle and secondary schools in DuPage County and beyond. Some of the staffers read parts in his readers theater presentation. Many expressed interest in keeping in touch with the Foundation, visiting our sites and working together on future programs.

Hemingway and Whitehead Street on Key West

## E. Stone Shiflet and Jim Meredith Visit Oak Park



The Foundation enjoyed a visit from international Hemingway Society President, Jim Meredith, and colleague E. Stone Shiflet in March.

After dinner at Hemmingway’s Bistro with several Foundation members, Shiflet spoke about “The Socio-Economic Sights of Whitehead Street: Hemingway as Number 18 on the Key West Tourism Map of the 1930s.”

Shiflet shared her extensive research on Key West in the New Deal era including a failing conch economy and on Hemingway’s disenchantment with Key West as evidenced in his Esquire article “The Sights of Whitehead Street: A Key West Letter.”

Dr. Shiflet’s work with Hemingway focuses on his time in Florida and his work on the Spanish Civil War. She has an article forthcoming in *Hemingway’s Key West: A Reassessment*, due for release in 2009. She also serves on the board of the Florida College English Association and is involved in several projects highlighting Hemingway’s role in constructing Florida’s modern-day identity.

Shiflet and Meredith also delivered a talk on Hemingway’s Key West experience to a group of English teachers at Oak Park River Forest High School at lunch the following day. They also spoke of their initiatives in developing an international virtual high school curriculum to teach Hemingway.

EHFOP very much enjoyed their visit and looks forward to more scholars from the international group visiting Oak Park.



### A Day in Our Village

Dee Brennan, EHFOP board member, with one of the many visitors who was trying his luck at “Challenge” at the EHFOP booth.

Below are Bill Cassin, Wendell Rayburn and Redd Griffin.



# “At Home with Hemingway”: Newberry Library and Dominican University Seminar

By Pete Mavrelis

The magic and charm of the Hemingway Birthplace Home was again evident when about a dozen of us gathered there for “At Home with Hemingway,” a seminar co-sponsored by the Newberry Library and Dominican University. Through six sessions in March and April of this year, we centered our attention on “Hemingway’s Language,” “In Our Time,” and “Life in Art in Hemingway.” Using *The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway*, Finca Vigia Edition, we wove our way through the tapestry of Hemingway’s stories. It is always enchanting discussing his works, knowing that, years ago, he grew up reading, thinking, praying, and just enjoying the life of young boy in the same room where you are having a roundtable of thoughts and ideas on Hemingway’s literature.

The real star of the seminar was David Krause, Ph.D., Associate Provost at Dominican University. He exuded a wonderful energy that brought all of the readings to life. He stressed the structure of “In Our Time” and balanced Hemingway’s early pieces with emphasis on Hemingway’s use of language to create setting, character, plot, conflict, and theme—all elements of the short story. For me, Dr. Krause renewed my interest in the way Hemingway reproduced into literature the sensibility and texture of some of the art he admired in museums throughout the world.

Congratulations and thanks to all who were involved in setting up this seminar.

## EHFOP Group Tours

The Ernest Hemingway Birthplace Home and the Hemingway Museum have hosted hundreds of visitors in group tours this year. Special mention must be given to Virginia Cassin who, along with other volunteers, has continued her remarkable tradition of providing personal talks for a wide variety of visiting groups.

250 students from Elm Middle School in Elmwood Park visited this year. Examples of other group tours include:

ACT Charter School  
Aurora Public Library Big Read  
Scouting Tour  
Calumet High School  
Edward Charles Isaac School  
Glenbard North High School  
Glenbard South High School  
Holley Court Terrace Seniors  
Illinois Society: Dames of the  
Court of Honor  
Lifelong Learning Institute at  
National-Louis University  
Loyola Academy  
Mainstreamers of Maine Township  
Monterey College of California  
Oak Park and River Forest High School,  
Junior AP American Literature Class  
Purdue University, Modern American  
Literature Class  
Red Hat Society, Crestwood  
St. Francis De Sales, English Honors Class  
St. Giles Daisies  
Shriners Hospital for Children  
University of Chicago, Anthropology of  
Museums Class

To schedule a group tour, call (708) 848-2222.

## Join The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park Today!

Free admission to the Hemingway Museum and Birthplace ◆ An online subscription to the *Hemingway Dispatch* newsletter  
A 10% discount on gifts and books from the Museum Store ◆ Discounts on admission to selected events

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- Windemere Society \$250
- Oak Park Society \$100
- Family Membership \$55
- Individual Membership \$45
- Individual Senior \$40
- Individual Student \$40

Mail to: EHFOP, P.O. Box 2222, Oak Park, IL 60303

# Calendar

## Summer/Fall 2008

**Sun., July 20, 3 to 6 pm** Veterans Room, Oak Park Public Library. Informal get together and discussion with Susan Beegel for Hemingway volunteers. Summer salads and desserts will be served.

**Mon., July 21, 7 pm** The Hemingway Museum. Hemingway Birthday Lecture presented by Susan Beegel, "Love in the Time of Influenza: The Hemingways of Oak Park and the 1918 Pandemic." Admission: \$7 members, \$10 non-members. Birthday cake will be served after the lecture.

**Sun., Sept. 21** Kay Smith artist event

**Sun., October 26** Wine Auction

**Fri., Dec. 26** The Hemingway Birthplace House. Boxing Day celebration

## SAVE THE DATE - HEMINGWAY WINE AUCTION OCT. 26

Following the success of last year's benefit, The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park will host its second annual wine auction on Sunday, Oct. 26. Wine tastings from several local merchants and elegant appetizers will be featured along with the availability of varied vintages for bidding under the auspices of Master Auctioneer Jim Boherstengel. Proceeds will fund the Foundation's educational and cultural programming.

The event will be held at Oak Park's historic Pleasant Home, 217 Home Avenue, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Watch your mailboxes for the official invitation to come and enjoy an autumn afternoon of celebrating wine, which Ernest Hemingway himself called "the most civilized thing in the world." For more information or to reserve tickets early, call the Foundation at (708) 848-2222 or visit [www.ehfp.org](http://www.ehfp.org).

## Contacting the Foundation

There are many ways to contact the Foundation for information.

**Telephone:** (708) 848-2222

**E-mail:** [ehfp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ehfp@sbcglobal.net)

**Web site:** [www.ehfp.org](http://www.ehfp.org)

Between newsletters, visit the Web page for current information.

**Hemingway Despatch:**

**Editorial Director, Maryanne Rusinak**

**Design & Production, Karen Glass**

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