

Going East: Helen Perry Curtis and a Year in New York, 1908-1909

Wednesday - January 15, 2020

10a- 12p Moln D139



Laura Gellott returns to ALL with another chapter in the story of Helen Perry Curtis. ALL members earlier heard about Dr. Gellott's "discovery" of Curtis, and the story of Curtis's time in France, 1918-1919, as a YMCA volunteer during the First World War.

Today's program takes us back a decade, to 1908-1909. In that year, 20 year-old Helen left her home in Nebraska to spend a year with an uncle and aunt in Summit, New Jersey. The financial and social position of her relatives gave Helen entree to the upper class society in Summit, a town on the commuter line from New York City. The year in Summit was a turning point in Helen's life, introducing her to the artistic and cultural world of New York, and planting the seeds of a future career as a museum director.

But the well-to-do town of Summit had another side. It was home to several silk mills on the city's north end, mills whose workforce consisted largely of Syrian immigrants. Helen's uncle was a founder of Summit's settlement house, dedicated to serving the needs of the immigrants and their children, and Helen was a regular volunteer at the settlement. Helen's aunt was an active club woman, whose circle of friends included women who introduced Helen to the reform movements of the day, including women's suffrage.

This lecture is illustrated with photographs of Helen's life during this time, as well as photos of locations in Summit and New York City then and now.

Questions? Contact Frances M. Kavenik, 262-654-7570 or kavenik@uwp.edu

Helen Perry Curtis 1/15/2020

Members: \$7 Guests: \$14

Register by: Dec 15, 2019

Name _____ Check # _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency contact name & phone _____ / _____

Deliver **cash** registration to the ALL office in Tallent Hall. **Checks** payable to UW-Parkside/ALL; deliver or mail to Vanessa. **Credit card** registration for members must be submitted online; an email with a member registration **LINK** will be sent around the 1st Monday each month. **NO** online credit card registrations can be accepted for guests. As registrations fill, members get preference in signing up.



Our presenter (and one of our favorite historians) is Dr. Laura Gellott, Professor Emerita of History at UW-Parkside, where she served on the faculty for 30 years, chairing the History Department for 8 of those years.

Dr. Gellott is a two-time recipient of UW-Parkside's Stella Gray Teaching Excellence Award. She received her B.A. and M.A. degrees from Marquette University and her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Gellott has traveled extensively in Europe, and she is currently working on a biography of Helen Perry Curtis. She brings passion and enthusiasm to her history classes and gladly shares them with ALL members.