

First Friday Club of Chicago



Come Join Us!

And Bite into Something
More than Lunch

www.firstfridayclubchicago.org

FALL 2016

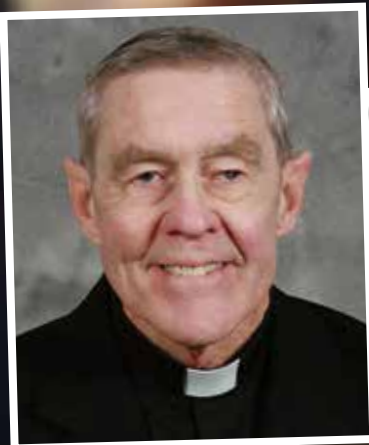
A Taste of the Coming Year...



Eddie Johnson - October 7th



*Archbishop Blasé Cupich -
March 3rd*



*Father Bill Moriarty -
December 2nd*



*Mary Ann Ahern &
Carol Marin - November 4th*



Jeanne Bishop - January 6th



Richard Beddome
President



September 2016

Dear Friends of the First Friday Club:

Over the past 30 years, the First Friday Club of Chicago has endeavored to bring you speakers who have exhibited great faith in conducting their lives, from the fields of business, politics, journalism, public service, religion, the arts, law, and medicine. Please join us as we present a new season filled with a wide range of interesting speakers and intriguing topics.

What a great series of speakers we were honored to welcome this past season!
Was there someone who surprised or challenged you to think more deeply?

Was it Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle or maybe Father Michael Pfleger?

While the evening news frequently gives us a brief sound bite, these public figures generously shared much more with us. Many members tell us they appreciate the opportunity of asking questions and hearing unscripted responses. Reverend Shannon Kershner was very thought provoking, as was Sheriff Tom Dart. I hope you didn't miss them.

Some of our best-loved talks have come from speakers who shared personal experiences or hardships that we all relate to. Kickoff speaker David Gregory didn't focus on TV news, politics, or journalism. He shared his journey that started when President George W. Bush asked him, "How is your Faith?". He was stopped cold by the question and didn't have a ready answer. How would you or I have responded to that simple inquiry?

In September 1986, Cardinal Bernardin, our first speaker, addressed a room that was literally overflowing with guests. There have been about 250 speakers since the Cardinal, including his successors Cardinal George and Archbishop Cupich. In the search for deeper meaning, we have also heard from Rabbi Evan Moffic, Rev. Otis Moss, Eboo Patel, Dr. Martin Marty, and others, who have shared their faith traditions with our members.

If you found our speakers words of value, perhaps you will consider inviting a neighbor, friend, or family member to join you this season.

Last year I challenged you to consider moving up to a higher level of membership. Many of you graciously upgraded by becoming a Patron, Supporter, Benefactor or Sponsor. Thank You! Your First Friday Club would not be able to provide the quality of programs or speakers without your continued support. If you have any suggestions to help improve the luncheons or have an idea for a future speaker, please let us hear from you.

I look forward to seeing you and your guests on Friday, October 7, 2016, when we welcome Chicago Police Commissioner Eddie Johnson.

Sincerely,

Richard Beddome
President

711 West Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60661-3519

Phone: 312.466.9610
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E-mail: ffcc@firstfridayclubchicago.org
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COME JOIN US AND BITE INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN LUNCH

Every first Friday of the month, October through May, from noon to 1:15 enjoy lunch at The Union League Club (65 West Jackson Blvd.)



A Letter from the Chaplain of the First Friday Club of Chicago, Fr. John Cusick



Fr. John C. Cusick, *Chaplain*

It never grows old.

Way back in 1985-1986 a group of women and men were invited to sit around a dining room table. They were asked to consider the possibility of creating an activity that would bring people together once a month who worked in downtown Chicago. Can we find a speaker who can address an issue that can make some connections with our work, our personal faith and values, and some of the important issues we face everyday?

“Let’s try it,” was the unanimous consent around that table. They decided on hosting the program on the first Friday of each month - playing off an old Catholic title: “First Friday.” The title was also part of another similar organization from whom we received much inspiration and help, The First Friday Club of Cleveland.

Hence on the first Friday in September, 1986 The First Friday Club of Chicago was born. After our opening prayer, and an introduction by Mr. Bill Raleigh, the first President of the First Friday Club of Chicago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin became our inaugural speaker.

Thirty-one years and one month later, on the first Friday of October, 2016 The First Friday Club of Chicago will continue its tradition of inviting an excellent speaker to assist us in making the needed connections between our work, our faith and the issues we face every day. Chicago Police Commissioner, Eddie Johnson, will speak to the issue of the seemingly out of control violence, shootings and murders that grip so many communities in the city.

Please join us on October 7, when I am privileged to say to all those gathered together, “Let us pray.” Twenty minutes later, Mr. Richard Beddome, the current President of the First Friday Club of Chicago, will formally introduce Commissioner Johnson and another “season” of seeking connections between work, faith and daily issues will be underway.

Please join us. It never grows old.

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2016 - 2017

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*Denotes New Members

continued on page 11

First Friday Board Member

Brian Schmisek, PhD, Director, the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University



Briaan Schmisek, PhD, Director, the Institute of Pastoral Studies, Loyola University

Dr. Brian Schmisek came to Loyola University in July 2012 from the University of Dallas. Dr. Schmisek served as the dean and associate professor in the UD School of Ministry. Brian, his wife, and their four children, reside in the northern suburbs.

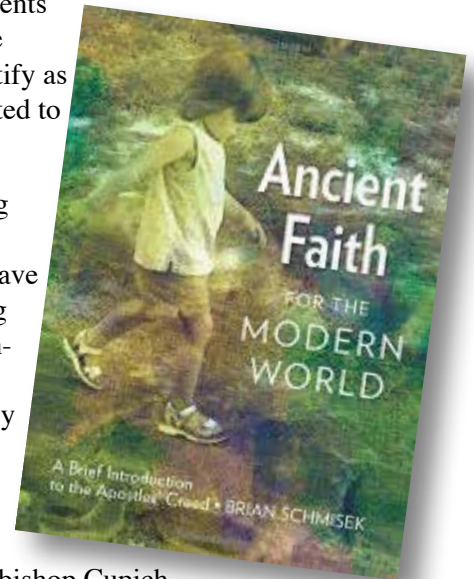
Dr. Schmisek is known for his entrepreneurial, strategic, and fundraising skills. He has been working to develop new academic initiatives; engage faculty, students, and alumni; and to continue building strong relationships across a wide network of constituencies.

“One of our IPS students, Tim Lankford, introduced me to the First Friday Club. I went as his guest a couple of times and quickly saw how beneficial the club would be for our students. The following year we sponsored a table and brought IPS students each month. The feedback our Institute received from our students was universally positive. We have continued bringing our students and they continue to have wonderful things to say about the speakers, the club, and the chance to meet folks from across Chicagoland who share their interests and values. As we are a graduate school, our students are all adults, motivated by faith, to make the world a better place. Many of them self-identify as “change agents,” and all of them are committed to providing service”.

“Perhaps because our students were attending each month I was asked to participate on the board, which I consider to be an honor. We have meaningful discussions each month, planning for future meetings and reaching out to potential speakers. The knowledge and network of relationships in the community represented by those on the board is truly staggering. It’s a privilege to be part of the group”.

“Two of the most memorable speakers I heard at the First Friday Club would be Archbishop Cupich and also Fr. Michael Pfleger. Archbishop Cupich visited during his first year in Chicago and made a lasting, positive impression on those who heard him speak not only about the church, but about some of the formative experiences he had growing up in his family. And of course, Fr. Pfleger has been known in Chicago for decades. He spoke with conviction about making our city whole”.

“Knowing some of the speakers we have coming up, I’m looking forward to the 2016-17 season, and sharing these experiences with our dedicated students”.



2015-2016: Highlights from our 30th Season

THANK YOU for making the 30th Season of the First Friday Club of Chicago very special!

Friday, October 2, 2015 – David Gregory



The FFCC Program Year began with collaboration with the Union League Club of Chicago's Authors Group. Our speaker was David Gregory - an American television journalist and the former moderator of NBC News' Sunday morning talk show Meet the Press. Gregory currently serves as CNN political analyst, since 2016. David discussed highlights and the up-close-and personal aspects of his book *How's Your Faith: An Unlikely Spiritual Journey*. He probed various religious traditions to better understand his own Jewish faith tradition and answer one of life's most important questions: who do we want to be and what do we believe? He shared that the journey began when he was stopped by then President George W. Bush who asked Gregory, How's your faith? This journey enabled David's grounding and stability during a time of challenge and transition in his employment status – and thus impacting in positive ways his marriage and family life.

Friday, November 6, 2015 – Tom Dart



Thomas J. "Tom" Dart is the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, and serves as the chief executive of the second largest single-site correctional facility in the United States after Los Angeles. Cook County Jail has also been labeled as America's Largest Mental Healthcare Provider. Early on Dart recognized the desperate need for reform in the mental health-care system, he is now an outspoken advocate for the mentally ill population housed in the Cook County Jail. Tom highlighted activities and programs implemented to impact inmate's mental health while in holding and/or jailed. Another program developed is the preparation of an inmate with mental health issues to re-integrate into the community and family as appropriate. Dart challenged us to support and advocate public policy and funding for activities and programs to meet some of the mental health needs of inmates in the Cook County Jail as well as in Chicago's communities.

Friday, March 4, 2016 – Shannon Kershner



The Rev. Shannon Kershner became the first woman solo senior pastor and head of staff at Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church in March 2014. Shannon framed her discussion through the lens of the liturgical season of Lent – introspection, dust, dessert, letting go, a spiritual time and practice leading us to the passion, the cross, and the resurrection. With the resurrection we ought to embrace transformation and new life. Over the past 40-50 years, the Protestant Main Lines, the evangelical streams, and the Catholic Church have lost their sphere of influence in public life and culture. Christian traditions are experiencing decline in membership and an increase in the none's and the done's. Is this a Lenten time for the universal church? Lenten spiritual practices as individuals, within the community of faith of letting go also must include taking-up. Lenten spiritual practices are pertinent for the universal church. Kershner concluded that communities of faith and the universal church discern what can be taken-up and letting go in order to proclaim the Gospel message of resurrection and God's love – transformation and new life.

See you on October 7, 2016 for the start of our 31st Season!

Wanda Menghini Reflects on her 15 Years with the First Friday Club



Wanda and Charlie

After many dedicated years as a schoolteacher, Wanda Menghini retired from the teaching profession in June 2000. Wanda had always been an active person and an avid golfer, but she didn't have any specific plans as to how she would spend her golden years.

Wanda's husband Charlie had been to a number of First Friday luncheons and was a big fan of the Club. That fall, Charlie mentioned to Father John Cusick that Wanda was interested in doing "some volunteer work". Two weeks later, Wanda and Charlie met with the President of the First Friday Club, Catherine Brokenshire, and with Chaplain Cusick at the Union League Club.

Wanda chuckled as she related what happened next. Within minutes, Charlie excitedly stated, "She'll be perfect for the job, She'll take it!" And take it, she did!

In February 2001, Wanda was being trained to be the new Administrator.

As of March 2001, she was on her own. Although she now had total responsibility for the daily operation of the office, she noted that she was fortunate to be able to call on her predecessor, Joanne O'Brien (the wedding coordinator at Old St. Pat's).

At first, Wanda answered phone calls and emails and mailed out the monthly reminder cards. There was no Website when she started. Table Captains invited guests from their parish or work organization and generally had a regular group of people who they contacted monthly. The Table Captains phoned Wanda to inform her how many reservations they needed and shared their list of guests.

Prior to any FFCC office assistance, the Board members would call the Union League Club with the total number of guests and tables needed, and would meet on Thursday, the night before the luncheon, to set up the final table arrangements.

Over the years, Wanda took over more and more administrative duties.

She also had to learn a new E-Mail system and made updates to the Web Site. Eventually she even became the "publisher" of the Annual Report.

Wanda remembers fondly how she could always rely on the assistance of Socorro Perez from the Young Adult office, who was her "Right-Hand Lady" on all computer problems and issues. She was also grateful to have Kate DeVries working nearby. She describes Kate as "Cool under Pressure", and there was always lots of pressure as the monthly deadlines approached. In the last few years, the office moved twice, and Wanda lost the daily camaraderie of these dear colleagues, and Father Cusick.

Over the many years that Wanda has been the Administrator of the Club, she also became very good friends with many of you (her regular guests). She looked forward to catching up monthly, on the phone and at the luncheons. Many of you have become like members of the family to Wanda.

continued on next page

Wanda Menghini Reflects on her 15 Years *Continued*

In October 2015, Wanda's husband Charlie had a major Heart Attack. After several months of rehab, he is doing well again. During the period of Charlie's recovery, Ethel Gillespie became the interim Administrator. Over the last several months, Wanda has generously trained Ethel in how to run the luncheons and handle the systems. Starting this new season, Wanda has handed off the Keys and Passwords, and Ethel has become the permanent Club Administrator.

Wanda noted that she always took something away from each speaker and felt that she learned something new from every talk. She mentions Carol Marin who she admired for her Strength of Character. She was impressed with Ron Magers, who took risks at the beginning of his career to stand up for his beliefs. But she recalls with greatest admiration how Alison Rosati spoke so candidly and personally about her extremely difficult childhood and the challenges she had to overcome to succeed.

Wanda, like many of our speakers, has been an inspiration. In her retirement years, she took what she thought would be a part time job for a few months, and turned it into a Mission. Thank you, Wanda, for 15 years of dedication and service to the First Friday Club. We can never express how grateful we are to you as a colleague and a friend.



Wanda and Ethel

You can become a Table Captain by Contacting the Administrator at 312-466-9610

First Friday Club of Chicago Mission

The mission of the First Friday Club of Chicago is to provide a forum for men and women to make connections between work, faith, values and issues that affect their daily lives.

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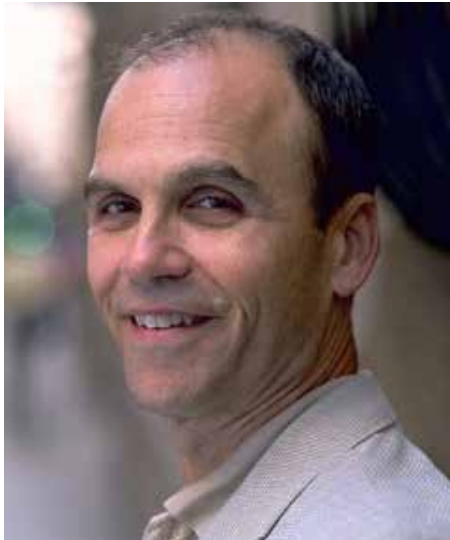
*Board Members (above):
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Judy Josephs (hidden),
Mary Jo Graf, Chuck Murphy,
Rich Beddome, Paul Gillespie,
Nick Gibson*



*Staff Members (above):
Socorro Perez, Terry Stumpf, Catherine
Brokenshire, Wanda Menghini, (rear)
Joyce Volakakis, Mary Anne Beddome
(front L-R).*

An Interview with Past Speaker Scott Turow, Attorney and Author

By Past President and Board Member Catherine Brokenshire



Scott Turow, Attorney and Author

The Board of The First Friday Club asked you to speak on the topic of “Ordinary Heroes”. You spoke affectionately about your grandfather as one of your heroes.

Who would be an ordinary hero in your professional life as an attorney?

In my life as a lawyer, I’d choose Tom Sullivan, who was US Attorney when I began practicing law as one of his assistants. Tom is not ‘ordinary’ in most senses of the word, since he was a standout law student who went on to become one of the finest trial lawyers in the city. But when he was appointed US Attorney, he approached the job with utter humility, and believed the job was about the law and not him. He was the most dedicated public servant I’ve ever encountered, who asked with each decision only whether it was right and NOT what the impact would be on him. Thus he persevered with Operation Greylord, the investigation of judicial corruption in Cook County, even though failure would have literally required him to leave the state when he left office.

What about in your other professional life as a writer and successful author?

In my life as an author, I’d choose Paul Aiken, the late Executive Director of the Authors Guild. Paul is not a well-known name, but in the twenty plus years that he served, he did more than anyone else I can think of to protect the rights of the little guys in the authorial world. He cared only about making sure that writing in this country was less a winner take all occupation, and thus took on the behemoths like Amazon and the big publishers with good spirit but determination.

Who are the heroes in our country in your lifetime?

I’ll choose my grandmother. She came to this country as a 14 year old immigrant, married, raised two kids, and all with a commitment to decency and her own self improvement. Although she had little formal education, she was a great reader. Well past 70, she decided to take on Moby Dick. Reading in a second language--Yiddish was her first tongue—it took her months to get through it. I was about 12 at the time, and I remember finally asking her what this book she was laboring with was about.

“A fish,” she answered.

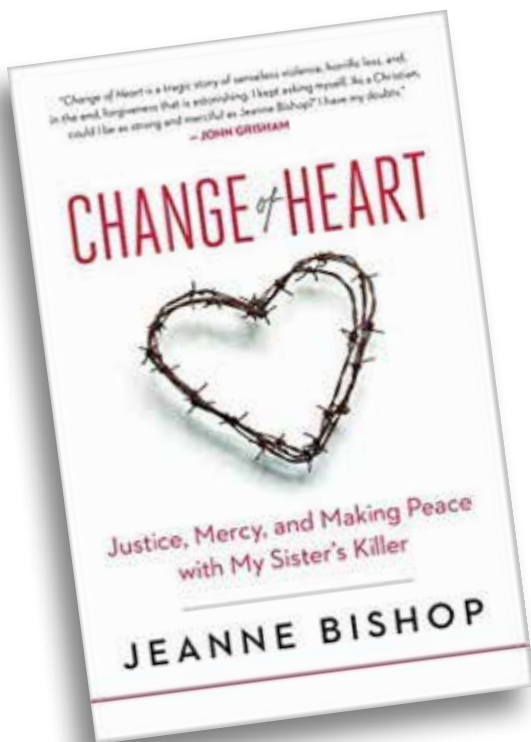
Scott Turow has written 10 best selling works of fiction including *Presumed Innocent*, and two non-fiction books including *Ultimate Punishment*, a reflection on the death penalty. A partner in the Chicago Law Firm Dentons (formerly Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal), his books have been translated into over 40 languages, have sold over 30 million copies, and been made into movies. A Harvard Law School and Amherst graduate, he was the first Chair of Illinois’ Executive Ethics Commission.

His latest book, “*Identical*”, a murder mystery about identical twins, is now available everywhere.

An Interview with January 2017 Speaker Jeanne Bishop, Author, Attorney and Social Justice Leader



Jeanne Bishop, Author, Attorney and Social Justice Leader will speak at First Friday Jan. 6, 2017



Jeanne Bishop was born and raised by a loving family in a well-to-do north shore suburb of Chicago. A graduate of Northwestern University's School of Law, she was hired as an attorney by the prestigious international law firm Mayer Brown. Some would say she had an idyllic life.

That all changed in one horrific moment, on April 7, 1990, when her younger sister Nancy, her brother-in-law Richard, and their unborn baby were murdered in an unspeakably brutal manner.

Jeanne gave up the corporate life to take a job with the Cook County Public Defender's Office.

We've asked Jeanne to share a few thoughts about her journey from grief and shock, to living a more fully engaged Christian life of action to honor the memory of her beloved sister:

Jeanne, most people would say that you had every right to be angry and bitter about this senseless crime. How did you cope with the sorrow and grief?

"As I state in my book, my first response to that tragedy was to seal a stone over my heart, to take a rock in my hand to throw at the perpetrator, guilty as he was. But from the very beginning, I also knew that being angry and bitter would not hurt the perpetrator; it would only eat me alive. I already knew before he was identified that I had to forgive; for God and Nancy and for myself. When I learned of the arrest, I said that I didn't want to hate anyone."

Can you share with us the moment when you had "A Change of Heart"?

A change occurred as I attended a Christ Church outdoor service on a beach. The Pastor said that life was messy. It was the juxtaposition of sin and mercy that struck me. I was about to take the Eucharist. We say the words, 'Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us'. It reminded me of how I had not forgiven this young man. I had been telling myself and others that I had forgiven him, but I never expressed it to him. I felt that since I never heard from him that he was remorseless. Mark Osler convinced me to take the first step. Mark challenged me. I presumed the guilty party wasn't sorry since he had never expressed his apology to me. I realized that we receive such great forgiveness from God; we should try to do the same.

Jeanne then said something that seems startling. She called her sister's killer 'the most important person involved in the forgiveness'. She noted that the Bible tells us that we should Love our Enemy.

She continued, "We think we need to hear 'I'm sorry' first before we forgive. As he hung on the cross dying, Jesus forgave his killers and they had not shown him any remorse".

Want to hear more of Jeanne's interview?

We asked for her advice on how we could cope with grief, anger, and loss in our own lives. She also shares personal details of how tragedy has shaped her parenting. Read the entire interview on our website.

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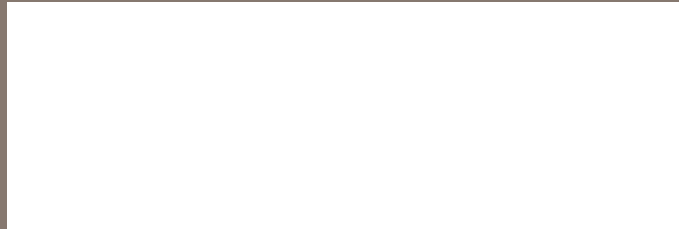
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Walther, Nora
Welcome, Marcia *
Wojewoda, Ronald
Woodburn, Patricia
Woods, Sasha *
Zappa, Marguerite
Zizzo, Linda *
Zwick, Ann *

*Denotes New Members



Register Online at:
www.firstfridayclubchicago.org

First Friday Speakers for the 2016-2017 Season

Friday, October 7, 2016



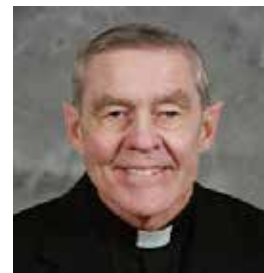
Eddie Johnson
Chicago Police Chief

Friday, November 4, 2016



**Carol Marin
and Mary Ann Ahern**
Chicago Political Journalists

Friday, December 2, 2016



Father Bill Moriarty
Priest of 50 Years

Friday, January 6, 2017



Jeanne Bishop
Author, Public Defender, &
Social Justice Champion

Friday, February 3, 2017



Dr. Jo Ann Rooney
Loyola University
President

Friday, March 3, 2017



**Archbishop
Blasé Cupich**

COME JOIN US AND BITE INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN LUNCH

Every first Friday of the month, October through May, from noon to 1:15 enjoy lunch at The Union League Club (65 West Jackson Blvd.)



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