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Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts to host genealogy program

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 Comments (No comments posted.)

GRAYSLAKE – Sex, murder and money.

That will be the topic of discussion during the Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts meeting Saturday, June 14, at the Grayslake Area Public Library. Professional speaker Mike Karsen will present “Sex, Murder, and Genealogy,” which is the story of Dora Feldman McDonald, who made headlines in 1907 when she was alleged to have shot her lover.

“I’ve heard the program, and it’s an excellent program,” said Robin Seidenberg, president of the Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts. “It’s a very interesting [speech] because what the historians said happened was different from what [Karsen] found through his genealogy research.”

One of those discrepancies was McDonald’s first name, which at birth was Flora, Karsen said. McDonald married Michael McDonald, but had an affair with Webster Guerin, who blackmailed her for money.

“She’s a woman who murdered her lover ... but she had a bit of mystique, and she was acquitted,” Karsen said. “There are a lot of cases from 1900 to 1920 where women were acquitted. [McDonald’s story has] money, sex and murder – all the things people are intrigued about.”

Seidenberg said the program is co-sponsored by the Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts and the library. The group generally meets one Saturday a month at the library, and meetings are open to everyone. There is a wide range of computer skill level among the members, she said, and the group’s motto is “Members helping members.”

“We really do help each other,” Seidenberg said.

She added that she wanted Karsen to present his program, in part, because of the computer tools he used to gather information.

Karsen said he began researching McDonald after his friend Walter Roth asked him to help find out more about McDonald for an article he was writing.

Although Karsen said he hopes those who attend “Sex, Murder and Genealogy” enjoy the story, he also wants them to learn about genealogy and the outlets available to research the past.

“It does have a little entertainment, but it’s basically showing ... that even with a few facts, you can find your story,” he said. “My main thrust is to get people to research their family. Your past is not behind you – it’s your very being.”

If you go . . .

What: “Sex, Murder, and Genealogy,” a program by professional speaker Mike Karsen about Dora Feldman McDonald

When: Starts at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 14

Where: Grayslake Area Public Library, 100 Library Lane in Grayslake

For more information about the program: Call 847-223-5313, 847-623-3815 or go to www.lcace.org

For more information about Karsen: Go to www.mikekarsen.com

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

What: A nonprofit educational organization that promotes and develops computer literacy; it was founded by Dwight (J.J.) Johnson in April 1983.

When/where: The group generally meets one Saturday a month (except for July) at the Grayslake Area Public Library (except for December).

For more information: Call 847-623-3815 or go to www.lcace.org

COMMENTS

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