



# WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE

The Prologue Society Newsletter

April 4, 2016

## FROM THE CHAIR

Yes, we're announcing a special event: **On May 13** Simon Montefiore will return to The Prologue Society to tell us about his just-released book, *The Romanovs: 1613-1918*. Those of us who have been with Prologue for some time will remember his outstanding presentation of *Jerusalem: The Biography* a few years ago. Both Montefiore and the book were big hits, so we are particularly proud to offer this extra event. NOTE: since your annual dues pay for the seven books offered during a normal season, we will need to charge you at our cost (20% discount from Books & Books) for your copy of Montefiore's book. Debbie will try to find a way for you to pay for your book when you register. Failing that, we will accept payment for the books at the luncheon. Stay tuned for details.

Montefiore will cap a terrific Spring Season that included Fergus Bordewich's fascinating book on the first United States Congress and Les Standiford's interesting presentation on how William Mulholland built the aqueduct that permitted Los Angeles to become a major city.

This month's event will take us to the Far East: **On April 14** Janice Nimura will speak about *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back*. **PLEASE REGISTER NOW!** Sunday, April 10 is the deadline!

**REMEMBER** to bring any Prologue-type books that you don't want to the luncheon in April or May so we can give them to TheEducation Foundation.

Happy reading! See you soon—

Dabney (Bud) Park

**NEXT LUNCHEON: Janice Nimura, April 14**

*Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey From East to West and Back*

### To register:

- **The deadline for members to register for this luncheon is Sunday, April 10.**
- **Online:** Go to [www.theprologuesociety.org](http://www.theprologuesociety.org) and follow the instructions;

- **OR by telephone:** Call 305-323-1154 and talk to Debbie Hirshson or leave a voicemail message that you plan to attend;
- **OR by regular mail:** Send note with a check for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157.
- **Include** the names of your guests.
- **IMPORTANT: IF YOU REGISTER BY MAIL, you must also call Debbie** (or reply to this email) so that she knows to expect you!

**To pay:**

- **Enter your credit card number** on the website;
- **OR mail a check** for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157;
- **OR bring a check** to the luncheon.

**Note:**

- To speed up luncheon check-in and accounting, our preference is that you: 1) pay online, OR 2) mail a check well in advance of the luncheon.
- Mail is taking a while to reach us. (Remember to call or email Debbie right away if you're registering via the mail.)
- **If you haven't yet sent in your membership application**, please do so right away (or activate and pay for your membership online). You will need to be on the membership rolls before we can accept your reservation for this and all future luncheons of this season.

**APRIL 14: JANICE NIMURA**

***Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey From East to West and Back***

In 1871, five young girls were sent by the Japanese government to the United States. Their mission: learn Western ways and return to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan.



Raised in traditional samurai households during the turmoil of civil war, three of these unusual ambassadors—Sutematsu Yamakawa, Shige Nagai, and Ume Tsuda—grew up as typical American schoolgirls. Upon their arrival in San Francisco they became celebrities, their travels and traditional clothing exclaimed over by newspapers across the nation. As they learned English and Western customs, their American friends grew to love them for their high spirits and intellectual brilliance.

The passionate relationships they formed reveal an intimate world of cross-cultural fascination and connection. Ten years later, they returned to Japan—a land grown foreign to them—determined to revolutionize women’s education.

Based on in-depth archival research in Japan and in the United States, including decades of letters from between the three women and their American host families, *Daughters of the Samurai* is beautifully, cinematically written, a fascinating lens through which to view an extraordinary historical moment.

~ W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.

photo credit: Lucy Schaeffer

## RECENT LUNCHEONS

On February 24, Fergus Bordewich informed and entertained us, and we were joined by very special student Aly Zamek, Chair Bud Park's granddaughter.



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On March 17, we were joined by Les Standiford.



## UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

### SAVE THE DATE

**May 13, 2016**

We are delighted to have the opportunity to add this luncheon to our 2015-2016 season!

Please join us on May 13, when we will be hearing from Simon Sebag Montefiore, whose book is titled *The Romanovs: 1613-1918*. This book is scheduled to be released in the U.S. in early May.

**Please stay tuned** for registration information and for details regarding purchasing a book.

**ALL LUNCHEONS**  
are held in the Riviera Country Club Ballroom  
1155 Blue Road, Coral Gables  
12 Noon to 2:00 pm  
Doors open at 11:30 am

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For membership and luncheon information, please visit us online at [www.theprologuesociety.org](http://www.theprologuesociety.org), email us at [theprologuesociety@gmail.com](mailto:theprologuesociety@gmail.com) or phone us at 305-323-1154.

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