

New Book on the CDC

Review by Claudia Stucke

Images of America: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By **Bob Kelley** (Member of the Board of Directors, DeKalb History Center)

Foreword by **Judy M. Gantt**, Director of David J. Sencer CDC Museum

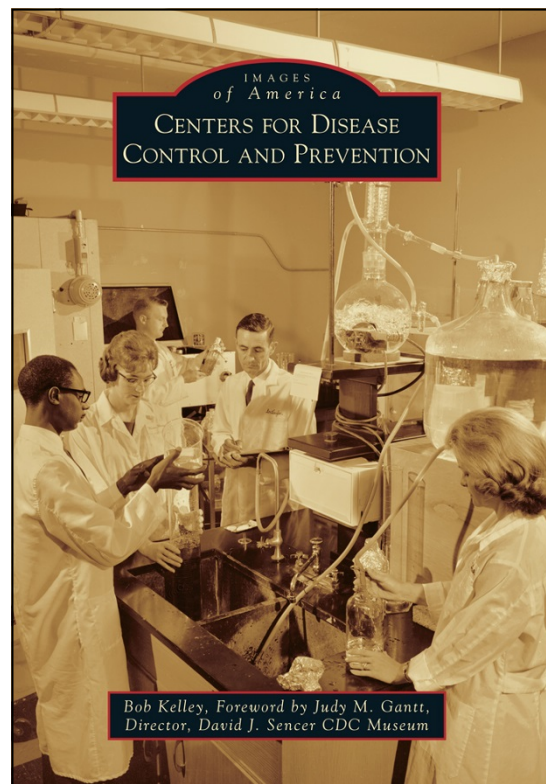
Did you know that . . .

. . . neither Jonas Salk nor Albert Sabin patented their polio vaccines but instead generously gave up their rights to ownership “as a gift to humanity”?

. . . during World War II, before he became “Dr. Seuss,” Army Captain Theodor Geisel created anti-malaria posters for the U.S. Public Health Service, featuring a Grinch-like caricature of a mosquito?

. . . the bubonic plague—the “Black Death” that ravaged medieval Europe—broke out in San Francisco after the earthquake sent flea-infested rats scurrying for shelter?

If you find any of this information intriguing or if you’d just like to know more about the CDC in particular or public health in general, you would enjoy this recent publication from Arcadia’s Images of America series. Written by DHC board member and veteran journalist Bob Kelley, the book is the first public history of the CDC written within the past twenty-five years and the first book in the Images of America series to feature a government agency. Kelley says that he was inspired to write it after visiting the CDC’s David J. Sencer Museum on assignment for *The Champion*.



“At first, I thought it would be a lot easier than the *Images of America: Doraville* book I had just completed, because I had photos and research resources all in one place,” says Kelley. But the most difficult tasks were selecting and compressing decades of photographs and information down into the space limitation of 128 pages and 200 images.

“In the end, I opted to structure the history by decade; and that really helped me organize the book.”

Continued on page 3

Summer Programs

The DeKalb History Center is busy this summer with programs for children and adults. ***The Civil War Walking Tour*** continues through June 12. The remaining dates are May 27 and 30 and June 5, 6, 10 and 12. Wednesday and Friday tours are at 2 pm and Saturday tours are at 3 pm. Also look for the ***Early DeKalb County Tour*** at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse this fall; dates and times will be on the website soon. Tours are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children.

The DHC is offering three weeks of summer camp in June and July. ***Creative Writing Adventure*** includes Session 1: June 8 - 12, and Session 2: June 29 - July 2. Both weeks are 9 am - 3 pm for children ages 9 - 14 years, and aftercare is available. These enriching camps will

Continued on page 7

Inside this issue

- Upcoming Events, page 2
- Annual Meeting & Silent Auction, page 4
- Dance Hall Decatur, page 6

Upcoming Events

Civil War Symposium:

Life in Atlanta and DeKalb County During the War

The symposium is sponsored in part by a grant from the **Georgia Humanities Council**. For more information or advance registration and payment, call 404-373-1088, extension 20, or email goldemund@dekalbhistory.org.

- 9 am** Civil War walking tour of downtown Decatur
- 10 am** Gordon Jones, Atlanta History Center, *The Battles In and Around Atlanta* (FREE - sponsored by Georgia Humanities Council)
- 11 am** Robert A. Pratt, University of Georgia, *The Fate of the Freedmen* (FREE - sponsored by Georgia Humanities Council)
- Noon** Lunch and panel discussion with Robert Pratt, Gordon Jones, and Henry Bryant (from B'ATL). Buffet lunch by Fox Brothers Bar-B-Q.
- 1 pm** *Shadows of the Past*, a play about the Civil War in DeKalb County
- 2 - 3:30** Bus tour of DeKalb County front lines, guided by B'ATL (The Battle of Atlanta Commemorative Organization). Separate \$15 reservation - **must** be purchased in advance.

Your advance reservation of **\$35** (DHC member price) includes all events except the bus tour. Please add **\$15** each for the bus tour.

Saturday, July 11, 9:00 am - 2:00 or 3:30 pm
Historic DeKalb Courthouse, Second Floor
101 E. Court Square, Decatur, GA 30030

July Lunch & Learn

The Where, When and How of Doing Our Own Oral Histories

Presented by DHC Archivist, Fred Mobley

How did Nana's story go about Mom getting stuck in the trash can in Mrs. Turner's second grade class? How long was Eunice stuck on I-285 in the Blizzard of 2014? What do you mean Dad's high school band marched around the Old Courthouse Square?

With today's digital devices it's easy to conduct our own oral histories in formats easy to preserve and share as told or first remembered. The July Lunch and Learn will focus on the basics needed to do oral histories of the people, places, things, life experiences, and events important in our daily lives sharing with present and future generations. And, these could be donated to the oral histories collection at the DeKalb History Center helping with its mission to collect, preserve and share the history of DeKalb County, Georgia.

Tuesday, July 21, noon - 1:00 p.m.
Historic DeKalb Courthouse, Second Floor
Free - Bring your lunch!

Executive Committee

President: John Hewitt
 President Elect: Beth Shorthouse
 Treasurer: Tim Bricker
 Past President: Mary K. Jarboe
 Secretary: Kathryn Laity
 At Large: Meg Samuels

Board of Directors

John H. Coleman
 Bill Crane
 Yvette Gunn
 Shelia W. Harkleroad
 John Holley
 Bob Kelley
 Catherine Mullins
 Vee Nelson
 Mindy Pillow
 Jack Regan
 Melissa Spalding
 Jacqui Steele
 Joe Stoner
 Claudia Stucke

Trustees

Robert L. Brown, Jr.
 Liane Levetan
 Lyn Menne
 Judy B. Turner
 Fred C. Turner
 Betty E. Willis

Staff

Executive Director:
 Melissa Forgey
 Exhibits Coordinator:
 Karen Chance
 Rental Coordinator:
 Mallory Donaldson
 Programs & Preservation Coordinator:
 Jenny Goldemund
 Archivist:
 Fred Mobley
 Building Manager:
 Larry Serra

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cont.)

Continued from page 1

Kelley's organizational structure is useful for the reader, as well (especially in the absence of an index, a potentially frustrating but ultimately minor issue). After an introductory chapter on public health in the United States leading up to the CDC's founding, Chapters Two through Seven give an overview of the CDC's efforts from the 1940s through the 1990s, from malaria to West Nile Virus and antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The chapter on the 1940s deals with malaria, yellow fever, and the Spanish flu epidemic. The '50s are remembered primarily for the polio epidemic and massive efforts involved in research and vaccination, the '60s for childhood disease prevention. The chapter on the 1970s features the public-health detective work identifying and treating Legionnaires' Disease, the public health campaign against smoking, and treatment and prevention of tropical diseases, including Ebola, lately in the news but a deadly presence in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) in the mid-1970s. The CDC's surveillance, investigation, and research following the nuclear accident at Three-Mile Island in 1979 resulted in extensive changes in regulation and operation of nuclear power plant facilities in the United States.

AIDS-HIV dominates the chapter on the 1980s; but the CDC was also at work on discovering and preventing toxic-shock syndrome, dealing with Vietnam veterans' exposures to Agent Orange, and identifying the link between aspirin and the devastating effects of Reye's Syndrome. This was also a decade of the CDC's involvement in Hurricane Hugo in South Carolina and the eruption of Mount St. Helen's in Washington. In both catastrophes the CDC was concerned, among other things, with environmental issues, such as mold abatement and potentially harmful airborne substances. The '90s saw continued emphasis on environmental health and limiting exposures to toxins. This was also the decade of the opening of the CDC's Global Health Odyssey Museum (1996), a Smithsonian affiliate, whose name was changed in 2011 to honor Dr. David Sencer, the CDC's longest serving director.

The final chapter is look at the center's work so far and its expanded mission into workplace and environmental health, research on violence prevention, addiction and substance abuse, genome research, and preventative medicine, including obesity and its link to a variety of health problems. That increasing scope and emphasis on prevention are reflected in the CDC's name change from Communicable Disease Center to Center for Disease Control in 1970 and finally in 1992 to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Similar to its role in dealing with natural disasters, the CDC was also called in when the World Trade Center was attacked in New York on September 11, 2001, among other things to monitor first-responders and

survivors for respiratory illness. The agency continues to be involved globally in the treatment disease and in the human and environmental aftermath of natural disasters, such as the Haiti earthquake. But, as Bob Kelley learned, and as the general public may not realize, the CDC cannot merely show up and try to help; the agency must be invited by the government of a country outside of the United States before it can provide assistance in that country.

It should be noted the book is not simply a Valentine to the CDC; accounts of CDC tragedy are included with its triumphs. In addition to the photographs of immunizations, research labs, and sanitary field clinics is a photograph of two CDC workers and an Alabama patient with Eunice Rivers, RN, the only CDC staff member involved for all forty years with the infamous "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male." Her knowledge of the study was vital when it was transferred from the U.S. Public Health Service to the CDC in 1957 and finally stopped in 1972 because of ethical concerns. In 1997 CDC director Dr. David Satcher and President Clinton publicly apologized for the unethical experimentation on human beings. In the 1940s chapter of the book is a photograph of a soldier spraying another soldier's exposed skin with DDT, now an unthinkable act since the substance was banned in the United States 1972 because of health and environmental concerns. And included in the narrative of the path to a successful polio vaccine is an account of the "Cutter incident," which has become something of an epidemiological footnote. During Salk vaccine trials improper laboratory procedures resulted in arm paralysis for at least five California children. After prompt investigation, protocol changes were put into place, and the vaccinations resumed.

Today anyone with Internet access can go online and take advantage of CDC research, from life-threatening diseases such as Ebola and antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis to head lice, that scourge of the elementary school classroom. Ironically, although smallpox has been eradicated worldwide as of 1979, and most childhood diseases have been nearly eliminated in this country, malaria, the disease that propelled the CDC's founding, is still a threat to global health; and new challenges to health and environment occur with daunting frequency. Right here in DeKalb County, Georgia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention remains on the forefront of public health not only in the United States but in partnership with governments and agencies throughout the world. Bob Kelley's behind-the-scenes look at the CDC's history and operation is a valuable resource for learning more about this agency and its work. ✦

Annual Meeting

The DeKalb History Center celebrated its 68th anniversary on March 20. New directors and officers were elected during the Annual Meeting. New officers are President: John Hewitt, Past President: Mary K. Jarboe, President Elect: Beth Shorthouse, Treasurer: Tim Bricker, and Secretary: Kathryn Laity. Our incoming board members are John Coleman, Bill Crane, Sheila Harkleroad, John Holley, Mindy Pillow, Cathy Mullins, and Melissa Spalding. Outgoing board members, Scotty Candler, Charlene Fang, Darold Honore and Kerri Morrin were thanked for their service to the organization. Over 110 generous individuals, restaurants, artists, hotels, and businesses made donations to our silent auction helping us to raise over \$7,700.

Thank you for your support!

Our guests enjoyed food from **Badda Bing, Endive Fine Catering, Fox Brothers BBQ, Sawicki's, Soiree Catering, Sun in My Belly, and Zest Atlanta**. Décor or services were provided by **Jarid Neff, Spectrum Entertainment & Events, 2000 AD, Inc., Concepts in Floral Arts, Goodness Studios** (the accompanying photos), **Bliss Wedding & Events, K&CO Floral Design, Event Rentals Unlimited, and ShutterBooth**.

Silent Auction Packages included donations from *2,000 A.D. Inc. Concepts in Floral Art, Academy Theatre, Aikido Center of Atlanta, Aimee Jewelry and Gallery, Alliance Theatre, Art Station Theatre, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta Braves, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta Preservation Center, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta's United Tae Kwon Do, Bagel Palace Deli & Bakery, The Battle of Atlanta Commemoration Organization, BB Salon, Beryl Bergquist, Bikram Yoga Decatur, Kimberly Bisger, bloom floral design, Bold American, Brick Store Pub, Mark Burnette, Butter & Cream, Café Alsace, Café Lily, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, M. Cary & Daughters Plumbing*



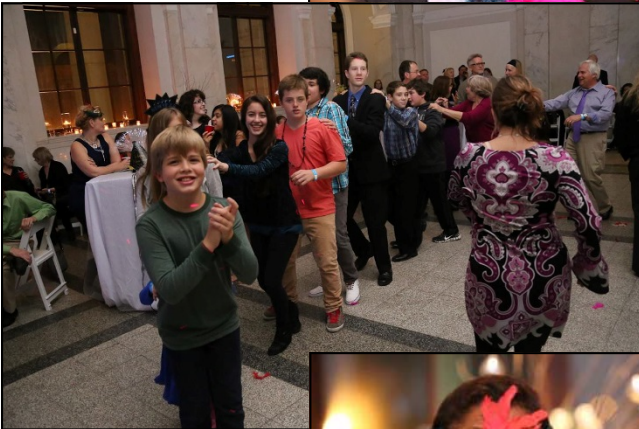
& Silent Auction



Contractors, Cason Photography, Center for Puppetry Arts, Chai Pani, Chattahoochee Nature Center, City of Decatur, Russell Clayton, Inside CNN, Colbeh Persian Kitchen & Bar, The Corner Pub, The Courtyard by Marriott (Decatur Downtown), Dad's Garage, Decatur City Jewelers, Decatur Downtown Development Authority, Decatur Family YMCA, Decatur Ghost Tour, Decatur Healing Arts, Decatur Yoga & Pilates, DKABB Investors, The DeKalb History Center, DeKalb Convention & Visitors Bureau, Druid Hills Civic Association, Jim Ellis Audi, Elmyriachi, Eyeworks of Decatur, Farm Burger, Fernbank Museum, Georgia Tech Alumni Association (Joe & Jane Stoner), The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Paige Girardot - Sotheby's International Realty, Carolyn & Earl Glenn, Greater Gwinnett Championship, Helmet Hairworx Midtown, Bobbi Henry, John & Dorothy Hewitt, High Museum of Art, Historic Oakland Foundation, The Imperial, Jim Jarboe: Realty Associates, Jazmin Spa, Jazzercise, The Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Perry Julien Photography, The Junior League of DeKalb County, Know Thyself Healing Center, Margaret Lacy, Leon's Full Service, Little Shop of Stories, LowCountry Barbeque, Matador Cantina, Maxim Barbers, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Cathy & John Mullins, New Jewelry & Design (Patty Mauney), J. Phillips Noble & Betty Scott Noble, Noni's, Oakhurst Market, Tiffany Parks, Pets Playhouse On Ponce, William Power, Pure Face and Body, Queen Lane Designs (Blair MacLane), Raging Burrito, Jack Regan & Ginger Krawiec, Mike Roach & Shawn McDaniel, The 17 Steps, Skip's Chicago Dogs, Souper Jenny, Joanna Spalding, Melissa Spalding, Squash Blossom, Stone Mountain Park, Carl & Claudia Stucke, Sq/Ft Decatur, Sweet Melissa's, Swillionaire Productions, Thai Chili, Tranquil Touch, Tropical Smoothie Café, Tuscan Sun, Variety Playhouse, Wahoo! A Decatur Grill, Marlene Webb (Decatur Healing Arts), World of Coca-Cola, The Wren's Nest, and Stuart Zola. ✦

Dance Hall Decatur

We have enjoyed three Dance Hall Decatur events since last October and plan to continue with this fun fundraiser. Our next one will be Friday, October 30, and Halloween costumes are encouraged. Great music, sodas and light snacks are included with your reservation. Drink tickets will be available at the event. Advance tickets will go on sale in September: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for under 21 *only*. We are also planning to repeat the event for New Year's Eve. That night will have more food and higher ticket prices. Enjoy these photos, courtesy of **Travis Hudgins/The Champion**, from December 31, 2014. ✦



Summer Camps (cont.)

Continued from page 1

teach children how to write creatively and to view writing as a fun process. Led by award winning children's book author Mary Ann Rodman, children will learn to tell their stories clearly while engaging their audience through the use of guided exercises and creative thinking. Campers will use the exhibits at the DeKalb History Center and downtown Decatur as inspiration.

The third week of camp offered this summer is **Improv Workshop: Comedy and History** (July 6 - 10). The hours are 9 am - 3 pm, and aftercare will be available; this camp is

for ages 8 - 14 years. Your child will spend a week at the historic courthouse playing improvisation games, role playing historic figures, and learning the basics of improvisation and stagecraft. Campers learn about character development, voice and diction, storytelling and public speaking. They will create flash performances of some of their favorite characters and will recreate historical events with a twist. Creativity, fun, and learning are at the forefront in this unique camp experience.

All camps are \$275 per week or \$250 per week for DHC members at the Patron Level and above. ✦

Indian Creek Cemetery

The DeKalb History Center oversees an account specifically designated for the perpetual care of the Indian Creek Cemetery. For almost 15 years, donors with a family connection to ancestors buried there have made financial contributions to ensure its maintenance and upkeep. Because the cemetery is not maintained through the Indian Creek Baptist Church, a group of people interested in the cemetery established this fund in 2001 through the DeKalb History Center. Last year, a donor stepped forward offering to match donations designated for Indian Creek Cemetery, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send a check to the DeKalb History Center and specify that it is for Indian Creek Cemetery. ✦

Membership donations are important to our mission. If you have questions about your membership, please email Melissa at forgey@dekalbhistory.org.

Join * Renew * Give

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing the History of DeKalb County

All funds received through memberships directly support the preservation of DeKalb County history and are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Your generous contribution to the DeKalb History Center will provide you with a year-long membership that includes our quarterly newsletter to keep you informed on all our activities. We hope that you will join our team by either renewing your membership or joining as a first-time supporter.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Supporter Levels

____ Heritage Society—\$2,500

____ Contributor—\$250

____ Household—\$50

____ Sponsor—\$1,000

____ Sustainer/Business—\$125

____ Individual—\$30

____ Benefactor/Corporation—\$500

____ Patron—\$75

____ Student/Teacher/Senior—\$25

Please mail this form with your contribution to: DeKalb History Center, 101 East Court Square, Decatur GA 30030

DeKalb History Center

Historic DeKalb Courthouse
101 East Court Square
Decatur GA 30030

Phone: 404-373-1088
Fax: 404-373-8287
www.dekalbhistory.org

*Keeping DeKalb's History
First, since 1947*



Business Supporters

Sponsor

**A. S. Turner & Sons
Brick Store Pub
City of Decatur**

**Decatur Downtown Development Authority
DeKalb Convention & Visitor's Bureau
McCurdy & Candler, LLC**

Benefactor

**DeVry University
Endive Catering
Epps Aviation**

**Fox Brothers Bar-B-Q
V. Nelson Associates, Inc.
Steel, LLC**

Contributor

**ACE III Communications
Avenue Catering Concepts
Cousins Foundation, Inc.
Edward Jones**

**Emory University
Farm Burger
Georgia Transmission
New South Associates
Oakhurst Market**

**Pattillo Management Corp.
Small Business Services
Steele Program Managers
Zest Atlanta**

These business members support the History Center at the Contributor Level or above. For information call 404-373-1088, ext. 22.