



Michael F. Crowley Lectures

Our 6th and Final Program of the 2014-2015 Series

Michael Feldberg, PhD

Thursday, April 16, 2015 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Salve Regina University ~ Young Building
518 Bellevue Avenue, at corner Ruggles Ave, Newport *

When Irish-American Catholic Churches Burned: The Philadelphia Bible Riots of 1844

The 1830s and 1840s were arguably the lowest moment for Irish Catholics in American history. Michael Feldberg will recall those difficult years by recounting the attacks by xenophobic Protestants (including some Orangemen) on two Irish Catholic churches in Philadelphia, one of which was burned to the ground. The immigrant Irish Catholics fought back, and several individuals were killed on both sides. Each time, it took the Pennsylvania militia several days to quell the disturbances.

Among the consequences of the riots were the creation of the Philadelphia Police Department, the second such department in the United States, and the establishment of the Philadelphia Catholic parochial school system. On the Protestant side, many of those anti-immigrant “nativists” went on to join the American Republican party, a forerunner of the Republican Party that would nominate Abraham Lincoln for president.

In short, this is a complicated story that has largely been forgotten.

MICHAEL FELDBERG, PhD is executive director of the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom, the organization that established and operates the Ambassador John L. Loeb, Jr. Visitors Center at the Touro Synagogue National Historic Site in Newport, RI. Previously, he served as executive director and director of research at the American Jewish Historical Society. He has taught American history at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and at UMass Boston, and directed the Criminal Justice Program at Boston University. The author of several books, Feldberg is most recently a co-editor of the forthcoming *A Rebuke to Bigotry: Reflections on George Washington's Letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, RI*.

Following the lecture, a reception with light hors d'oeuvres will be held. Cash bar.

Reservations are required. Please call or e-mail Ann Arnold at 401-841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net

Members – \$5 donation ~ Non-members - \$15 donation, which may be applied to 1-year Membership.

** Wheelchair Accessible via ramp. Lecture and reception on first floor.*

PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE



Some important information as we conclude the 2014-15 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series

- ❖ Our regular lecture venue, the International Tennis Hall of Fame Special Event Room, is undergoing renovation and will be unavailable for our use until late this spring, by which time the final two talks in the current series will have taken place.
- ❖ The April 16, 2015 lecture, which will conclude the 2014-15 Series, will be held at the historic Young Building, home of Salve Regina University's Pell Center for International Studies.
- ❖ The Young Building is conveniently located at 518 Bellevue Ave, with its entrance at the corner of Ruggles Ave, on the left side of Bellevue, as you travel south. Plenty of parking is available and the venue is handicapped-accessible.
- ❖ While the Young Building is well-suited to our lectures, it accommodates 100 total guests, somewhat fewer than can be hosted in the Tennis Hall of Fame. As a result, reservations will be a "must" if you'd like to attend the April 16 talk. "Standing room" will not be allowed by Salve, due to fire code.
- ❖ This temporary lecture location is a bit over 1 mile from the La Forge Casino Restaurant/Tennis Hall of Fame, only about 2 minutes by car. Those of you who enjoy dinner at the La Forge before or after Museum lectures are encouraged to continue to do so, and to make reservations with the La Forge, as in the past (restaurant phone: 401-847-0418).
- ❖ In order to defray the additional cost of moving the lectures "off premises" from the THOF/La Forge complex, the per-person lecture donation for Museum members will be increased temporarily from \$3 to \$5 per person for this talk. Thank you for your understanding. The fee may be paid in cash or check to "MNIH".
- ❖ As always, your lecture fee also includes the post-event reception featuring light hors d'oeuvres and a hosted cash bar.
- ❖ The 2015-2016 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series will return this fall to our usual venue, the Tennis Hall of Fame Special Events Room, directly above the La Forge Casino Restaurant.
- ❖ Questions? Please contact Ann Arnold May at **401-841-5493** or **tpm1@earthlink.net**

Our Thanks to:

*Salve Regina University, Conferences & Special Events Office
Management & Staff of the La Forge Casino Restaurant
Special Events Staff, International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum*