

Hidden history at the World's Fair at library

By Kate Miller
Record Managing Editor

People still talk about the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair but what's missing from the conversation is how inhumanely humans were treated.

Local historians are coming forward to set the record straight.

Lindenwood University Professor Angela Da Silva will present "The Unfair Fair" 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at the Scenic Regional Library in Warrenton.

To attend, register at the library's website, sign up at the library or call 636-456-3321.

The 1904 World's Fair takes bragging rights for exhibits like the X-ray, baby incubator and an introduction to film, which were all budding technologies at the time.

The 1904 Olympics hap-

pened there.

There were palaces of transportation, horticulture, education, art and others.

Da Silva's presentation, however, will focus on the Department of Anthropology and an area known to fairgoers as the Pike.

"In anthropology village they put what they considered primitive cultures," Da Silva said.

At the time anyone other than white was considered a primitive culture. Asian, African American, Native American Indian, and others who looked different were put on display for fairgoers to examine or be entertained by.

"Putting humans on display has never been right. To deny that it happened, that's what gets my ire," she said.

It's likely that most St. Louisans have never known about the saddest, most re-

pugnant offenses from one of the state's most famous historical events.

Da Silva said she learned during her research that one particular group was placed in an area 14 feet lower than the crowd.

"They were 14 feet lower so white folks were looking down on them," Da Silva said. "They would be throwing things down at them and really doing some despicable things."

She said in another area a pre-Civil War plantation was re-created, something similar to Tara out of "Gone with the Wind." She said it set a scene with using shanties, cotton fields, slaves and other imagery that perpetuated racist images of African Americans.

Da Silva's presentation explores these and other lesser known facts of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

The facts she presents will shake peoples' notions of the 1904 World's Fair.

"It's interesting, some of the things that happened there. The way people of color were treated. Humans on display," Da Silva said. "The World's Fair perpetuated and re-enforced stereotypes. They made it all seem like it was OK. Whites saw that as acceptable."

sons to celebrate the joys of gardening, says University of Missouri Extension horticulturist David Trinklein.

April brings a sense of renewal, Trinklein says. "Gardens and gardening remind us of everything good about life—the beauty of nature, the feeling of pride and sense of accomplishment for having done something productive and the realization that our efforts help to improve ourselves, our society and our environment."

Saves money

A study by Burpee Seeds reports that \$50 spent on gardening can convert into \$1,250 worth of produce annually. "You don't have to buy a \$500 rotary tiller to begin gardening," Trinklein says. "You'll need a shovel to turn the soil, a rake to smooth it and a hoe to get rid of weeds. It is surprising how inexpensive it can be to get into gardening."

Health benefits

Digging, hoeing, raking and other gardening tasks strengthen muscles and the mind. The average gardener burns 300 to 400 calories per hour while gardening – the equivalent of walking 4 miles at a brisk pace, Trinklein says.

Gardening also burns stress. "Simply being surrounded by growing plants and blooming flowers immerses us in another world and diverts the stresses and demands of life," he says.



STAR-STRUCK

Fran Martin, left, visits with former St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Jim Edmonds during the Warren County R-III Investment in Scholastic Excellence Red and White fundraiser held April 13 at Holy Rosary. Edmonds, who is a board member for Care to Learn, was on hand to promote and raise money for the organization, which provides students with health, hunger and hygiene needs. Fans had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Edmonds in exchange for a donation. Record photo/Derrick Forsythe.

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