

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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## 2009 MAKING HISTORY AWARDS

The Chicago Historical Society honors five award recipients in an evening of tradition and history on May 13.

CHICAGO (April 16, 2009) - The Chicago Historical Society is proud to announce its distinguished recipients for the 2009 Making History Awards. Each recipient has made a significant historical contribution to the city and the nation. The awards will be presented on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at the Palmer House with cocktails beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards presentation. This year's recipients include: Norman R. Bobins, The Honorable George N. Leighton, Donald S. Perkins, Carole and Gordon Segal, and the McDonald's Corporation, accepted by James A. Skinner.

"These awards provide an opportunity to honor outstanding dedication and achievement in a variety of fields," said Gary T. Johnson, Museum president. "This year, we are able to add a very diverse and accomplished group of recipients to an ever growing list of those who have exhibited a passion for service to the citizens and institutions of Chicago." Over the past decade, the Chicago Historical Society has honored 69 Chicagoans including notables such as Studs Terkel, Milton Friedman, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Ramsey Lewis, Maria Tallchief, and Franz Jackson.

*The Bertha Honoré Palmer History Maker Award for Distinction in Civic Leadership* is presented to **Norman R. Bobins**. A long time leader in Chicago's banking industry; Bobins' commitment to public service has touched many organizations including the Chicago Board of Education, the Field Museum, the Commercial Club, The Newberry Library, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business (GSB), the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the Auditorium Theatre, the Children's Brain Research Foundation, and WTTW. Bobins has also been honored by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, which is the highest honor bestowed by the State of Illinois for outstanding achievement.

*The Harold Washington History Maker Award for Distinction in Public Service* is presented to **The Honorable George N. Leighton**. With very little formal education in his youth, Leighton enrolled at Howard University in Washington,

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D.C. after winning a \$200 scholarship in a writing contest. His success at Howard and later at Harvard Law School landed Leighton at one of the largest African American law firms in the nation; Moore, Ming & Leighton focusing on civil as well as criminal law and became an active participant in the civil rights movement supporting the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1964, Leighton became a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and later served for the Illinois Appellate Court and was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the Federal District Court of the Northern District of Illinois. Leighton has retired, but still is a counsel to the firm of Neal, Murdock & Levy and is an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School.

*The Daniel H. Burnham History Maker Award for Distinction in Visionary Leadership* is presented to **Donald S. Perkins**. For leadership in both the corporate sector at the Jewel Companies, Inc. and in the not-for-profit sector, Perkins has made a tremendous impact on his community. Perkins was the founding chairman of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club. He also served on several corporate boards including AT&T, AON, Firestone, and Kmart among others. Perkins' commitment to education is revealed through his work as he helped reform the Chicago Public Schools under Mayor Harold Washington; and his dedication to advancing Northwestern University participating as a life trustee.

**Carole and Gordon Segal** will be awarded *The Marshall Field History Maker Award for Distinction in Business Leadership and Innovation*. The Segals' opened their first retail store on Wells Street in 1962; lacking any capital for display cases and shelving they used crates and barrels to display the merchandise. Forty seven years later the Segals' vision is a successful international brand operating over 160 stores in the United States and Canada. The Segals' philosophy displays their dedication for their work. "You become a merchant because you want to turn people on. You want to make them happy, almost like an entertainer. The cash register is the applause."

The Cyrus McCormick History Maker Award for Historic Corporate Achievement is presented to **McDonald's Corporation**. As the world's leading restaurant brand, McDonald's serves 58 million people each day at 32,000 restaurants in 118 countries around the world. Founded in 1955 by Ray Kroc, who opened his first restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois, McDonald's represents a unique partnership among its franchisees, its suppliers and its company employees. Globally, about 80 percent of McDonald's restaurants are owned and operated by independent, local businessmen and women. Providing employment opportunities for 1.6 million people worldwide, McDonald's is one of the most diverse and respected employers in each of the countries where it does business. Over the past 54 years, McDonald's has adhered to its founding values of acting responsibly, through supporting the activities of Ronald

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McDonald House Charities as well as providing leadership in Corporate Responsibility areas such as sustainability, protecting the environment, animal welfare, food safety, and many others.

The Museum recognizes the generosity of the Palmer House as the event underwriter of the Making History Awards. The hotel has undergone a historic renovation and the Museum is honored to partner with this Chicago landmark for the Making History Awards. The Museum would also like to thank this year's co-chair sponsors; Abbott, Exelon Corporation and McDonald's Corporation.

Tickets for this year's dinner and reception start at \$500 per person, and may be obtained by contacting Kari Riordan at PJH & Associates at 312.553.2000. Proceeds from the awards dinner benefit the programs and exhibitions of the Chicago History Museum.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is \$14 adults with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org). The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District's generous support of all the Museum's activities.