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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Humanities Festival Announces Spring 2015 Season

Featuring Scott Simon, Mindy Segal, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Judy Blume

CHICAGO, IL—March 2, 2015—The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) announces its Spring 2015 Season, featuring presenters **Scott Simon, Mindy Segal, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Judy Blume**, along with an exhibition of Chicago photos taken by the **Liminal Camera**.

Kicking off the spring season in April, CHF will present author and host of NPR's *Weekend Edition* **Scott Simon**, who will discuss his forthcoming memoir, *Unforgettable: A Son, A Mother, and the Lessons of a Lifetime*, on **Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m.** at the **First United Methodist Church**. Later that month, CHF will present Chicago pastry chef and HotChocolate founder **Mindy Segal**, who will debut her new cookbook, *Cookie Love*, on **Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m.** at **Bottom Lounge**. In May, Minnesota **Senator Amy Klobuchar** will speak about the role of women in government on **Friday, May 1 at 6 p.m.** at **The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago**, and the artists from **Metabolic Studio** will exhibit photos from the **Liminal Camera** (the world's largest pinhole camera which was in residence during the 2014 Fall Festival: Journeys) on **Thursday, May 14 at 5:30 p.m.** at the **DePaul Art Museum**. To conclude the spring season, CHF and the *Chicago Tribune* will welcome literary icon and beloved YA author **Judy Blume** to talk about her new novel for adults, *In the Unlikely Event*, on **Wednesday, June 17 at 7 p.m.** at **Francis W. Parker School**.

Tickets for spring programs range from **\$5–18** and are currently on sale to **CHF Members** at chicagohumanities.org. Tickets will go on sale to the **general public Wednesday, March 4 at 10 a.m.**

"I'm delighted to be joining the Chicago Humanities Festival as it launches its Spring 2015 season," said the newly appointed **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**. "The lineup includes evocative, ambitious, and trailblazing individuals who have established themselves as industry leaders. I can't wait to see what exciting ideas they bring to the CHF stage."

SPRING 2015 SCHEDULE: G=General Public, M=CHF Member, ST=Students & Teachers



[Scott Simon](#)

Thursday, April 9 | 6–7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple (77 W Washington St)

M=\$14 G=\$18 ST=\$8

For NPR fans the name **Scott Simon** is practically a synonym for Saturday morning. The longtime host of *Weekend Edition* sets a more leisurely pace than his weekday compatriots with his warm and funny sensibility and sensitive, in-depth interviews and features. So when he began tweeting from his mother's hospital bedside in July 2013, was it any wonder his 1.2 million followers paid close attention? His new memoir, *Unforgettable: A Son, a Mother, and the Lessons of a Lifetime*, expands on those famous tweets to share a story that goes beyond his mother's death to explore her glamorous, Mad Men–era early days and her challenges as a single mother. Chicago son Simon will take to the CHF stage in a rare role—interviewee—to share this story of a lifetime. Simon is joined in conversation by **Alison Cuddy**, CHF's associate artistic director and former WBEZ 91.5 host.

[Continued]

Scott Simon is one of America's most admired writers and broadcasters. He has reported all kinds of stories from all over the world. His *Weekend Edition Saturday with Scott Simon* on NPR has over 4 million listeners. He has won the Columbia-DuPont, the Peabody, the Emmy, and many other awards for his work on radio, television, and books, and hosted many public television programs. He has written memoirs, histories, and novels. Simon is a native of Chicago and the son of comedian Ernie Simon and Patricia Lyons Simon. *Unforgettable* is his sixth book.



[Cookie Love with Mindy Segal](#)

Wednesday, April 22 | 7–8 p.m.

Bottom Lounge (1375 W Lake St)

M=\$14 G=\$18 ST=\$8 | Book/ticket package: M/ST=\$30 G=\$35

Chicago is a mecca for foodies of all types, whether in search of our famed hot dogs, delicious tacos, or the latest in high-end gastronomy. But if **Mindy Segal** has her way, the city will soon be known for cookies! The intrepid founder of Bucktown's HotChocolate is already a confectionery queen. Her new cookbook, *Cookie Love*, is a decadent and dazzling ode to the most satisfying of sweets. In conversation with WBEZ *Chewing the Fat* podcasters **Monica Eng** and **Louisa Chu**, Segal will talk Brown Butter with Hickory Smoked Bacon Chocolate Chip Cookies and Crème de Violet Snickerdoodles, among other delectables. And yes, there will be samples!

Pastry chef Mindy Segal specializes in American cuisine, where she adds a contemporary twist on classic desserts. She was awarded the James Beard Foundation award for Outstanding Pastry Chef in the Country in 2012 and was nominated for the category five years in a row, from 2007–2011. She has been featured in *The New York Times*, *GQ*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Food & Wine*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. She has made television appearances on *Today*, *The Martha Stewart Show*, and *The Food Network*. Segal is the proprietor of Chicago's popular HotChocolate Restaurant and Dessert Bar. She lives in Chicago. *Cookie Love* is her first cookbook.



[Amy Klobuchar: Joanne Alter Women in Government Lecture](#)

Friday, May 1 | 6–7 p.m.

**The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, Buchanan Chapel at the Gratz Center
(126 E Chestnut St)**

M=\$10 G=\$15 ST=\$5

Amy Klobuchar is a trailblazer. The first woman elected from Minnesota to serve in the United States Senate, the Democrat is known for her commitment to bringing together politicians from both sides of the aisle. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, Klobuchar worked to create a bipartisan debt commission and championed the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate. Senator Klobuchar's name is on a number of shortlists of potential candidates for the 2016 presidential race, and the *American Prospect* named her "a woman to watch." Join Klobuchar for a wide-ranging program, as she reflects on her tenure in the US Senate, and the state of women in government today. *This annual lecture honors the late Joanne H. Alter's pioneering work on behalf of women interested in social action and public service.*

Amy Klobuchar is the first female US Senator elected from Minnesota. A former prosecutor and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Klobuchar was a leading advocate in the bipartisan fight to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, successfully rallying all 20 women senators behind its passage. As Ranking Senate Member of the Joint Economic Committee and a member of the President's Export Council, she has been a leader working to implement a competitive agenda to ensure businesses have the tools they need to grow and create good jobs. Senator Klobuchar was also part of a group of Senators—half of whom were women—credited with crafting the bipartisan framework that helped end the government shutdown. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.



[Liminal Camera: Chicago](#)

Thursday, May 14 | 5:30 p.m.

DePaul Art Museum (935 W Fullerton Ave)

Opening is free to all attendees

We were thrilled to have the **Liminal Camera** in residence during last fall's Festival. Now the crew behind the world's largest pinhole camera returns with some of the extraordinary pictures they produced during their autumn journey around Chicago. The stunning twelve-foot-by-eight-foot prints of our hometown will be the focus of an exhibition at the DePaul Art Museum. Join the artists from **Metabolic Studio** for an opening evening as they recount their exploration of the city and how the Midwest inspired them. *This opening is presented in partnership with the DePaul Art Museum.*

The Optics Division, a project of the Metabolic Studio, is known for its innovative approaches to photography and the focused image. The Optics Division has exhibited work internationally with projects such as the Liminal Camera; a fully functional, giant camera housed inside a 20-foot-long shipping container. Transported by flatbed truck the Liminal Camera has traveled the country capturing monumental images on film. The Metabolic Studio in Los Angeles is the headquarters of Lauren Bon's diverse creative practice. The Optics Division is **Lauren Bon, Rich Nielsen, and Tristan Duke.**



Judy Blume

Wednesday, June 17 | 7–8 p.m.

Francis W Parker School, Diane and David B Heller Auditorium (2233 N Clark St)

M=\$10 G=\$15 ST=\$5

Judy Blume, literary icon and beloved author of *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*, *Forever*, and *Summer Sisters*, returns with a story that's preoccupied her for the past sixty years. When Blume was a teenager in the early 1950s, a series of passenger airplanes crashed in Elizabeth, New Jersey within a three-month period. "These events have lingered in my mind ever since. It was a crazy time. We were witnessing things that were incomprehensible to us as teenagers." *In the Unlikely Event* traces the reverberations of these tragedies, through her own life and beyond. Blume returns to Chicago to discuss her new novel with one of the many readers she's inspired over the years, the *Chicago Tribune's Heidi Stevens*. *This program is presented in partnership with the Chicago Tribune's Printers Row series.*

Judy Blume is one of America's most well-known authors. Her twenty-eight titles include *Blubber*, *Just as Long as We're Together*, and the five book series about the irrepressible Fudge. Together, her books have sold more than 85 million copies in 32 languages. She is a champion of intellectual freedom, working with the National Coalition Against Censorship to support teachers, librarians, and students who fight to keep challenged books on their shelves. In 2004, Blume was awarded the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. She lives in Key West, Florida, with her husband.

TICKETS:

Tickets for CHF Spring programs are **\$5–18** and are now on sale to **CHF Members** online at chicagohumanities.org or via the **CHF Box Office** at **312-494-9509**. Tickets go on sale to the general public on **Wednesday, March 4** at 10 a.m. Discounted tickets are available for CHF members and students/teachers. To become a member, visit supportchf.org. A **\$6 per order processing fee is applied to all pre-event sales.**

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About the Chicago Humanities Festival

For 25 years, the Chicago Humanities Festival has celebrated the questions that shape and define us as individuals, communities, and cultures. For the curious at heart, CHF's vibrant **year-round programming** and robust **Fall Festival** offer the opportunity to engage with some of the world's most brilliant minds. Collaborating with leading arts, cultural, and educational organizations, it presents scholars, artists and architects, thinkers, theologians, and policy makers that change how we see the world, where we're from, and where we're going. CHF also presents the spring **Stages, Sights & Sounds**, Chicago's only international children's theater festival. Under the leadership of **Executive Director Phillip Bahar** and the newly appointed **Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Jonathan Elmer**, CHF is one of Chicago's most vital presenting organizations.

The Chicago Humanities Festival has grown from **eight programs in one day at a single venue in 1990**, to **160 programs year-round at more than 25 venues** in and around Chicago. Over the past 25 years, CHF has put on more than 2,600 programs and performances, and presented more than 3,300 speakers and artists, including: 10 Nobel Prize winners, 70 Pulitzer Prize winners, 52 MacArthur Award recipients, 16 Tony Award winners, 10 Grammy Award winners, and seven Academy Award winners. Visit chicagohumanities.org for more information.