

The Church in the Village

(SIBC, directly next to the new Publix)
A Message from our Pastor –
Dr. James N. Staubes

Success in 2015

Success is defined as the favorable outcome of something attempted. Would you like to have success guaranteed in 2015? It is possible, but there are stipulations.

God made a promise to Joshua that he would be successful in everything he attempted. *“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”* Joshua 1:6-7

You can be successful wherever you go? However, there are stipulations to meet.

You must claim the assurance that God will be with you. Do you have a personal relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ? I Christ, you can have an eternal relationship with God. Nothing else will suffice. He came to offer you life, eternal life, full and abundant life.

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16–17 (NIV84)

The first step to real success is a step of faith that leads you to surrender your life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He will be with you wherever you go.

You must be obedient to God's leadership. We are tempted to tell God where He should lead us and what the outcome should be for our efforts. In reality, just the opposite is true.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Proverbs 3:5–8 (NIV84)

Through a personal relationship with Christ and obedience to His leadership, you will know real success.

Visit our website at www.sibc.org
and our Pastor's site at
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New York City's Jazz Era Comes to the Savannah Book Festival

*Donald Miller speaks on his latest
book Sunday, February 14*

BY JANE THIMME

On Saturday, February 14, Donald Miller will be one of an impressive group of authors discussing their work at the Savannah Book Festival. Miller's latest book is “Supreme City: How Jazz Age Manhattan Gave Birth to Modern America.”

E.B. White once said, “It's a miracle that New York works at all.” Miller, a professor of history at Lafayette College and New York Times Bestselling author, tries to explain the inner workings of bygone New York in “Supreme City.”

Miller is a preeminent authority on World War II, and one of his previous books has close ties to Savannah. The 2006 bestseller, “Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany,” tells the riveting stories of the American Eighth Air Force. HBO is currently developing a miniseries produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, based on the book.

“Supreme City” pulls the reader back to the 1920s in New York City – the age of jazz, the age of ambition, the age of personalities and the blatant disregard of inhibitions. Mayor Jimmy Walker, “the very expression of Jazz Age New York,” is the perfect book opener for this energetic story of the transformation of Midtown Manhattan. Miller illustrates why there is no other place in the world like New York City.

In many ways, the city shaped the direction of the country and attracted creative and fearless masterminds and visionaries from the other states and Russia, Canada, Poland and other middle European countries – all converging as volatile catalysts for each other.

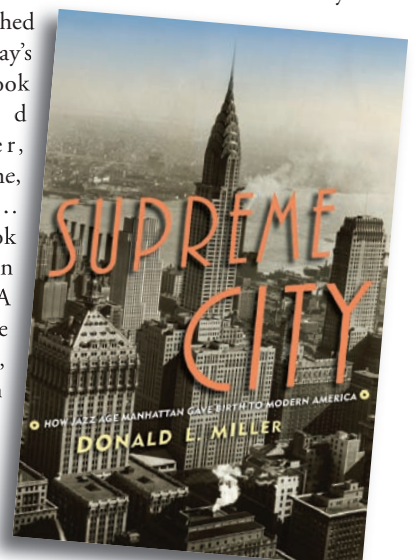
Donald Miller recently spoke with The Skinnie about “Supreme City.”

The Skinnie: Professor Miller, you have a “History in Five” video on the Simon & Schuster website in which you have five minutes to say five key things about your book. Seems like a hard cut to make – what would you add to the five mentioned (Grand Central Terminal, Skyscrapers, Radio, Boxing and Gangsters) if it could be History in Eight or more?

Donald Miller: There is so much to add – I loved writing the sections on sports and big time boxing in New York City. [Promoter] Tex Rickard brought boxing into the city and he had five “golden gates”...five million dollar takes. It's just the whole idea of turning a sport that's been nothing and actually banned in New York into something that was a national spectacle.

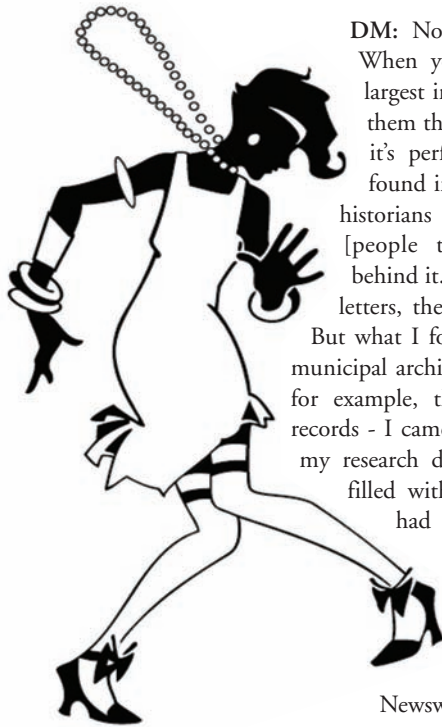
And I really enjoyed writing about publishing – how these young newcomers were rising up and came to maturity in the '20s – Richard Simon, Max Schuster, Bennett Cerf founding Random House, Alfred Knopf and Horace Liveright. Liveright had a fantastic firm...how many people know Liveright? But I think he was one of the most interesting publishers and one of the most influential in the 20th century.

He published Hemingway's first book and Faulkner, Hart Crane, O'Neill... he took chances on people. A big time gambler, he'd been a stockbroker in



Philadelphia and later made a million in New York City and then visited the book world and really promoted books, something publishers don't do as much today. He really believed in advertising.

TS: The Jazz Age and the Prohibition years fueled nightclubs and speakeasies. Would the syndicates and mobsters you write about have gotten such a stronghold of power and money without Prohibition?



DM: No, they were gifted a big industry. When you close down one of the 10 largest industries in the country and tell them they can make cereal but not beer, it's perfect for the mobsters. What I found interesting was a suspicion about historians who wrote on crime...because [people thought] there's no evidence behind it. High-level criminals don't write letters, they don't keep diaries or records.

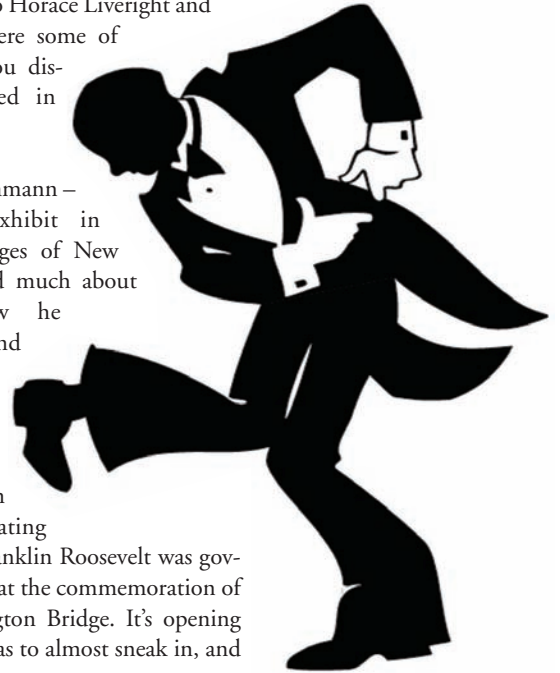
But what I found when I went down to the municipal archives in New York and requested, for example, the [Charles "Lucky"] Luciano records - I came back the following day and at my research desk were two enormous crates filled with testimonies of mobsters who had turned on Luciano. Wiretaps, receipts and even a lamp with a cord used to strangle someone. New York had great crime writers at the time like Damon Runyon.

Newswriters took this seriously because

the city was so riddled with corruption and crime. Prohibition gangs had tremendous power. The Mafia comes along a little later in the '30s. Early mobsters were not connected with the Mafia, they were syndicates. Bootlegger Bill Dwyer came out of nowhere and hooked up with Frank Costello. Dwyer ran the biggest gangster rum-running operation of all time. That was a surprise—I teach Prohibition and thought I knew the names. That was the fun of the book, finding new people and tracing those people's lives. Aristotle said, "The city is the people."

TS: In addition to Horace Liveright and Bill Dwyer, who were some of the other people you discovered or unpeeled in your research?

DM: Othmar Ammann – I went to an exhibit in Manhattan on bridges of New York. I hadn't heard much about Ammann...I knew he directed the design and construction of the George Washington Bridge but had no idea he had built all the major bridges in New York, culminating in the Verrazano. Franklin Roosevelt was governor, and presiding at the commemoration of the George Washington Bridge. It's opening day, and Ammann has to almost sneak in, and



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here he is the master of the bridge. Clifford Holland was a real surprise, too. I was fascinated by the engineering of tunnels. What could have been a gas chamber turned into the first long-stand auto tunnel in the world with this tremendous ventilation system.



Author and historian
 Donald Miller

One of my favorite characters was Roxy [Samuel "Roxy" Rothafel]. He's from my neck of the woods in the Pennsylvania coal region. He can't find his way in life; he joins the Marine Corps, fights in China, comes back and sells books to coal miners. He marries the bartender's daughter in a God-forsaken town, sets up a theater in the back of a bar, and three years later he's on Broadway.

New York was a place exploding with opportunity and brand new industries like the beauty business with Helena Rubenstein and Elizabeth Arden. It's making this transition from an industrial age with one foot in that age, then pioneering a new age – the age of electronics. Radio is founded in lower Manhattan and comes to maturity in Midtown, when rivals David Sarnoff and William Paley put on major talents like Duke Ellington.

TS: New middle class opportunities evolved within the garment industry, printing, radio and technology; certainly more career openings for women. Elizabeth Arden, Helena Rubenstein, Hattie Carnegie and Texas Guinan were powerful women of the era, but did women getting the vote in 1925 have much influence in New York City?



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DM: Women took the lead in beating Prohibition, which I tried to point out, by exposing its fraudulence and exposing the idea that not all women were for Prohibition. They're changing the culture as Rubenstein and Arden did in important ways and, by visiting nightclubs, a real act of liberation, they're integrating the nightlife of New York City sexually and going unescorted... a big breakthrough. Women were getting major jobs in publishing and with magazines. Lois Long at the New Yorker was a brilliant writer. She, as much as anybody, built its circulation in the '20s and saved the magazine. Tex Rickard opened up the Garden and boxing seats for women. And, women changed a whole district of Manhattan with Sutton Place. They took a decaying area along the river and turned it into what it still is, a fascinating in-town area. But not so much in politics, they're still closed out.

TS: Is there a next book in process?

DM: I'm dividing my time now – heavily into scriptwriting for “Masters of the Air” and we're almost finished. A book I've started and will go back to is on the Civil War and the Battle of Vicksburg.

Donald Miller illuminates how Jazz Age Manhattan became the social, cultural and commercial hub of the country fueled by a competitive shoot-for-the-moon mentality. Other larger-than-life Jazz Age personalities whom Miller shines light on are entertainers Flo Ziegfield, Eddie Cantor, Bing Crosby, George Raft; sports icons Babe Ruth, Red Grange, Bill Tilden, Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney; Grand Central Terminal engineer William Wilges and real estate developers Fred French and Walter Chrysler.

What made New York City work, writes Miller, was concentration and diversity. “This made it fertile ground for the exchange of information and the cultivation of new ideas – new ways of building, selling, communicating and entertaining.”

Miller serves on the Board of Trustees for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and joined the Lafayette College faculty in 1978. He will appear during Savannah Book Festival's main day, Saturday, February 14. There will be opportunity for questions and book signing. All February 14 events are free and open to the public. For additional Savannah Book Festival information, visit www.savannahbookfestival.org.



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