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Non-Profit Organization

What: Fall Program & Book Signing
Twin Voices: A Memoir of Polio, the Forgotten Killer
By Janice Nichols

When: Thursday, October 18th 2:30-4:30 PM

Where: The History Center, 215 Niagara Street, Lockport NY

Contact: Doug Farley, Director of Development, 716 434-7433

The worst epidemics of polio took place in our country during the lifetime of countless baby-boomers, afflicting over 57,000 people in the United States alone in 1952, and over a half-million cases worldwide. The History Center is pleased to welcome noted local author, Janice Nichols, to discuss her new book, Twin Voices: A Memoir of Polio, The Forgotten Killer. The book chronicles the history of polio, and one family’s struggle, both won and lost. Nichols is a survivor of the polio epidemic that struck a suburb of Syracuse in 1953. Eight children in her first grade classroom, out of twenty-four, contracted the disease and Jan’s twin brother, Frankie, died sixty-one hours after hospitalization. Jan was admitted to the hospital on the night of Frankie’s burial with a diagnosis of paralytic polio.

Nichols overcame the disease and went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling. In addition to her new book, she is the author of a textbook, a local history book, and several scholarly articles. Nichols noted, “Polio remains the world’s greatest crippler. Worldwide, between ten and twenty million people live with the acute and chronic affects of the virus. Sadly, more than 50 years after the advent of the Salk vaccine, polio remains an active killer and crippler in Third World countries.” Nichols’ work today includes assisting with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, the largest public health endeavor ever undertaken.

As part of “We’re Still Here,” a nationwide campaign to increase public awareness of the disease, Nichols will present a program at the History Center on Thursday, October 18th from 2:30 to 4:30 PM and will be on hand to personally sign copies of her new book, Twin Voices. Copies of this interesting and factual account are available for sale at the museum gift shop at 215 Niagara Street in Lockport. A small donation will be accepted at the door to assist the History Center to present this and other fine programs throughout the year.