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***Women of Steel and Stone* author presents free lecture at  
Elmhurst History Museum**

**Anna M. Lewis discusses inspirational women architects, landscape designers  
and engineers on November 17 at 1 p.m.**

ELMHURST, IL – In the world of education today, STEM – the much-used acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – has become the buzzword in curriculum development and career planning to better prepare students for jobs of the future that rely on these skills. For young women, these fields have traditionally been dominated by men, and one of STEM's goals is to open career paths not previously popular with or available to girls.

The Elmhurst History Museum's current exhibit, *In Her Own Right: Marion Mahony Griffin* sheds light on the first woman architect in the state of Illinois, a pioneer in her field and an innovative architect, illustrator, and landscape designer in the Prairie School. Marion was far ahead of her time when it came to blazing a trail in a STEM field, and she is profiled in the book *Women of Steel and Stone: 22 Inspirational Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Designers*, written by Anna M. Lewis. Ms. Lewis will present a lecture at the Elmhurst History Museum on **Thursday, November 17 at 1 p.m.** to share the stories of Mahony Griffin and other inspiring women.

Ms. Lewis' book tells the stories of 22 female architects, engineers, and landscape designers from the 1800s to today and profiles their childhood passions, perseverance, and creativity that led these women to overcome challenges and break barriers to achieve great success in their

professions. In addition to Marion Mahony Griffin, who worked alongside Frank Lloyd Wright to establish his distinct architectural-drawing style, subjects include: Emily Warren Roebling, who, after her husband fell ill, took over the duties of chief engineer on the Brooklyn Bridge project; Marian Cruger Coffin, a landscape architect who designed estates of Gilded Age mansions; Beverly L. Greene, the first African American woman in the country to get her architecture license; Zaha Hadid, one of today's best-known architects and the first woman to receive the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize; and many others.

This free program takes place at **1 p.m.** in the **Elmhurst History Museum's Education Center, located at 120 E. Park Ave. in Elmhurst.** Reservations can be made online at [www.elmhursthhistory.org](http://www.elmhursthhistory.org) (in the Adult Program section) or by calling 630-530-6879. Limited on-site parking is available. Ms. Lewis will sign and sell books after the program. Before and after the talk, participants are invited to learn more about Mahony Griffin by touring the *In Her Own Right* exhibit inside the Glos Mansion. The museum is open from 1 until 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Get to know some of the indomitable women who have led the way for STEM careers and made a positive impact on our world. For more information, please visit the Elmhurst History Museum's website at [www.elmhursthhistory.org](http://www.elmhursthhistory.org) or call (630) 833-1457.

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*The Elmhurst History Museum is a department of the City of Elmhurst supported by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation. The Museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. General admission is free with nominal fees for special programs. For more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit our web site at [www.elmhursthhistory.org](http://www.elmhursthhistory.org).*