



*Our story starts here*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**January Learning Lunch at the History Museum of Mobile will feature Steve Joynt, Publisher of The Mobile Mask Magazine, and a Performance By The Excelsior Band**

The History Museum of Mobile's Learning Lunch Program is on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 12pm and will feature Editor and Publisher of the Mobile Mask Magazine, Steve Joynt. He will deliver his presentation titled, *I've Got a Mardi Gras Secret*. The Excelsior Band, the oldest marching jazz band in the United States, will also perform popular Mardi Gras music.

Steve Joynt has been a professional journalist for nearly 40 years. His career in journalism began when he started as a copy boy for his hometown newspaper, the *News Leader*, in Richmond Virginia. He double-majored in English literature and American government at the University of Virginia but he spent more time working at the *Cavalier Daily* than he did on his actual studies. He earned a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University in New York City and then worked for 15 years as a reporter for the *Birmingham Post-Herald*, winning several awards and being named to the Scripps Howard Hall of Fame. He then spent 11 years with the *Mobile Press Register* as an assistant city editor and won his second Alabama Associated Press Sweepstakes award for a story he did for the paper.

Mr. Joynt left the *Register* in late 2011 to start the *Mobile Mask* web site and magazine. The first magazine was published for Mardi Gras 2013. The web site has received four Nappie awards over the years, and this year marks the 12th annual issue of the magazine. Through *Mobile Mask*, Steve has had three Mardi Gras-related historic markers placed in the city, including the one on Royal Street, just outside this building. He has spoken at 10 Mardi Gras Learning Lunches, and last year moderated a panel discussion at the History Museum about Mardi Gras costuming. Mr. Joynt was awarded an Arty last year for Literary Artist. He lives in Mobile with his wife, formerly named Nancy Godwin, who he has been married to since 1985.

The Excelsior Band is an African American brass marching band that has embodied the culture of the city of Mobile and its beloved Mardi Gras celebration for many generations. It was originally organized as a firehouse band by John A. Pope in 1883. Today, it is a ten-piece marching brass band that consists of three trumpets, three saxophones, one trombone, a tuba, a bass drum and a snare drum. The band plays many genres of music with emphasis on Dixieland and conventional jazz and is well known for performing in and leading Mardi Gras parades.

The History Museum of Mobile invites the public to attend the free Learning Lunch lecture series. Guests are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy a presentation on a historical or cultural topic. For more information on Learning Lunch, contact Jennifer Theeck, Curator of Education, at (251) 301-0270 or by email at [theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com](mailto:theeckj@historymuseumofmobile.com).

**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE:** The History Museum of Mobile is where Mobile's story begins. Over 117,000 objects weave together the rich, diverse, and often turbulent histories of Mobile and the surrounding area, from the prehistoric past to the present. Located in the heart of downtown, the History Museum is in the Old City Hall - Southern Market building at 111 South Royal Street. For more information, please visit: [www.historymuseumofmobile.com](http://www.historymuseumofmobile.com)

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