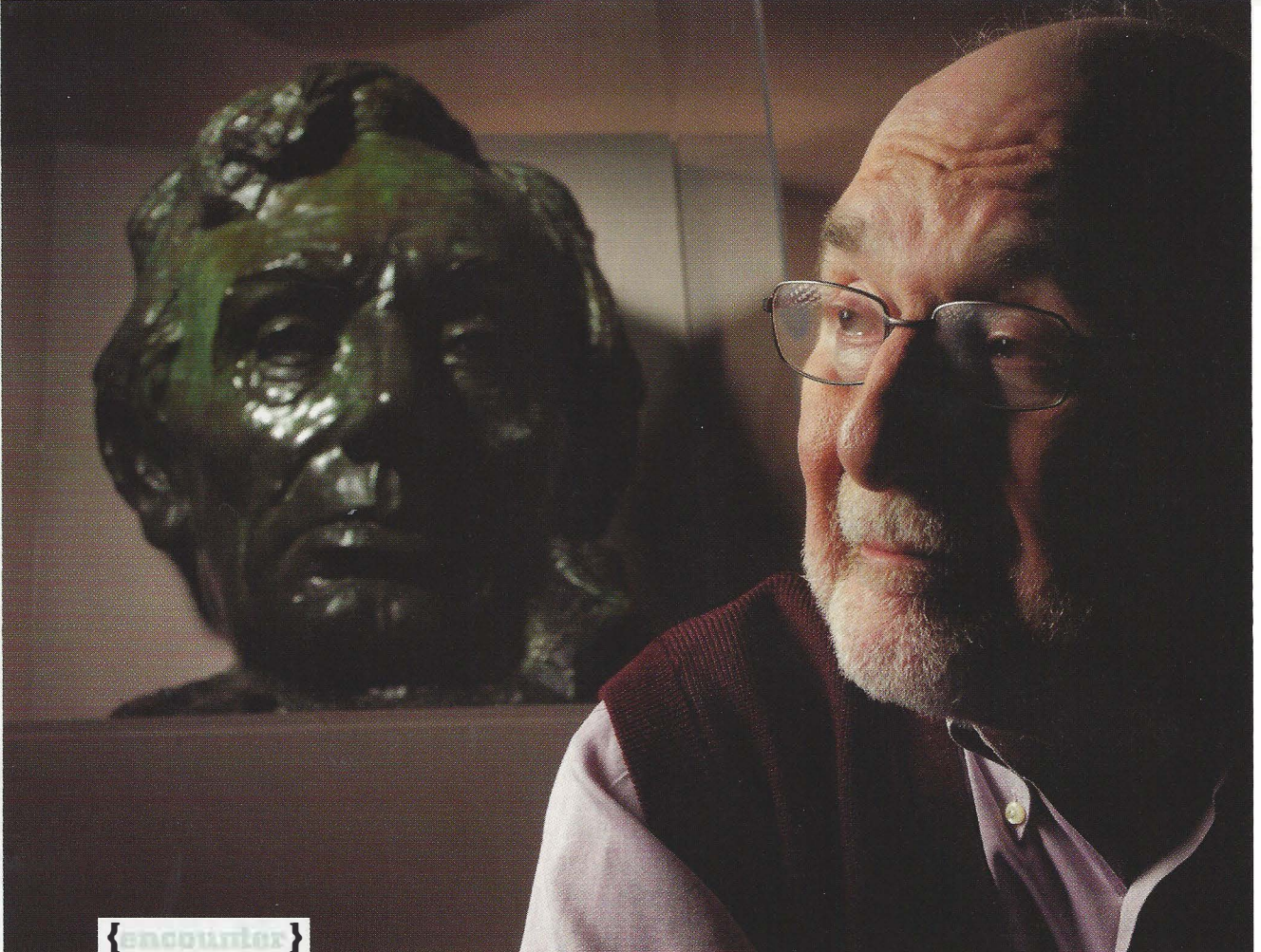


Prelude

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Syd Lieberman, History Maker

If you're a history buff, you've undoubtedly fantasized about indulging in a little time travel. If so, may we introduce you to Syd Lieberman, your tour guide *par excellence*? An internationally acclaimed storyteller based in Evanston, Lieberman has transported rapt listeners into the cockpits of dogfighting World War I planes, the chaos that was the Johnstown Flood and NASA rocket ships headed to Mars.

Syd's latest excursion is *Abraham & Isaac: Sacrifice at Gettysburg*, co-written with his wife, Adrienne. During her research, she made an extraordinary find: the fully transcribed diary of a young Union soldier, Isaac Taylor. "I knew immediately I had our hook," says Adrienne. "The biblical story of Abraham and Isaac (in which God commands Abraham to sacrifice his only

son) has always been very powerful to me. How could a father do this? We struggle to answer that question in our story."

They do so by interweaving Isaac's wry, sometimes cynical entries with the agonies experienced by "Father Abraham" (the nickname Union soldiers gave Lincoln) as he realized he must "sacrifice" thousands of young boys to save the nation.

"I try to invest the words with emotion — to bring the characters to life," says Lieberman. Pace. Gesture. Tone. Syd uses them all to imbue each moment with drama and poignancy. So pack your imagination; it's going to be quite a ride.

Lieberman performs Abraham & Isaac at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago, on June 9 at 6:30 p.m. Free with reservations. Call 312/642-4600. —Linda Gartz