

# HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



January 2021

www.hydeparkhistory.org, 773-493-1893

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hyde Park Book Club** – Monday, February 15, 2021, 7:30pm via Zoom. The featured book will be the soon to be republished *W-3* by Bette Howland (1937-2917). *W-3* is a memoir of her stay in a psychiatric ward (W-3) at a University of Chicago Hospital. Now a celebrated writer, Bette entered the University at the age of 15, was named a MacArthur Fellow in 1984, and later taught literature at the Committee on Social Thought. She was a close friend and mentee of Saul Bellow. Her sons, Frank and Jacob Howland will be present to discuss the book. Brigid Hughes, founding editor of the publisher, A Public Space, will join the conversation. Registration required.

[Register here](#)

**Hyde Park Book Club** – Monday, March 15, 2021, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author of *Everywhere You Don't Belong*, Gabriel Bump will join us. Gabriel is the 2020 winner of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence in fiction by African American authors. The novel is set in the South Shore neighborhood. Registration is required.

[Register here](#)

**Hyde Park Book Club** – Monday, April 19, 2021, 7:30 via Zoom. Returning author **Joseph Gustaitus** will join us for a discussion of his soon-to-be-published *Chicago in 50 Objects*. Details on book availability to follow. Registration is required.

[Register here](#)

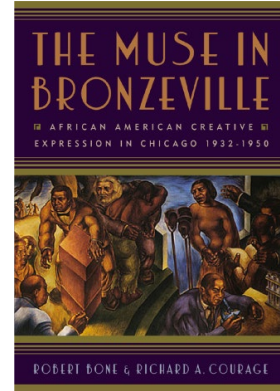
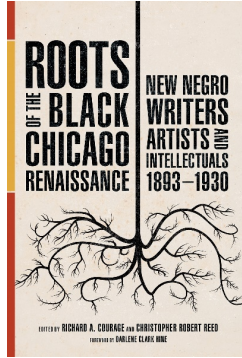
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## JANUARY 18, 2021 BOOK CLUB

On January 18, 2021 the Hyde Park Book Club hosted authors Richard Courage and Christopher Robert Reed on the subject of [Black History and Arts in Chicago](#). The topics discussed included four books authored jointly or individually by the two of them: *The Muse in Bronzeville*, *Roots of the Black Chicago Renaissance*, *Black Chicago's First Century*, *All the World is Here!* *The Black Presence in the White City*.

Neither author is a stranger to the Hyde Park Historical Society. Richard Courage presented a program on the *Muse in Bronzeville* to HPHS in 2012 and subsequently received the HPHS Block Award for a non-fiction work of history in 2013. Christopher Robert Reed was a speaker at the

## HPHS/Friends of the Park Program in 2018 on **No Blacks in the ‘White City’? Frederick Douglass at the Haitian Pavilion.**



Richard Courage is a professor of English at Westchester Community College in Valhalla, New York, where he teaches courses on writing and literature, both in-person and online. He also writes about African American cultural history, new media, teaching writing, and other topics.

Christopher R. Reed, PhD - Professor Emeritus of History at Roosevelt University. He is a Roosevelt alumnus, and a native Chicagoan who has matched scholarly interest and civic commitment. His research interests include Chicago history, nineteenth and twentieth century Black Chicago history, U.S. Civil War history, and urban politics. His scholarship includes numerous essays and books. He is the nation's leading expert and author of six books on the early history of African Americans in Chicago.

The Zoom recording can be viewed at: [Hyde Park Book Club, January 2021](#)

## PRESERVATION NEWS

### Potential Demolition of the Phyllis Wheatley Home, 5128 S. Michigan Ave.



The Phyllis Wheatley Homes were established in many northern cities to provide safe housing for young single Black women who were coming north to find employment during the Great Migration. Elizabeth Lindsay Davis was the founder of the effort. These homes were named for Phyllis Wheatley who was kidnapped and forced into slavery in the United States in the 1700s. She was the first African-American woman to publish a book of poems. Her work was published as early as 1767.

This building at 5128 S Michigan Ave was the third location for a Phyllis Wheatley Home in Chicago. It operated at this location for nearly 50 years. In an era when white-run settlement houses would not serve African Americans, the Phyllis Wheatley Home was one place that provided support and services for the Black women migrating to Chicago.

Much more work is needed in Chicago to honor and elevate African American history, especially the story of African-American women. The Phyllis Wheatley home is an extraordinary opportunity to tell the story of Phyllis Wheatley, Elizabeth Lindsay Davis and the remarkable women who worked to create this haven for Black women and girls arriving in Chicago to start new lives.

For more information on this initiative:

[A Bronzeville petition to save the home.](#)

[The City of Chicago listing for vacant buildings.](#)

### **FEATURED HPHS WEB SITE VIDEOS**

Take a look at some of our program and Book Club videos from the past year:

#### **September Book Club – *An Oral History of Chicago Theater***

Author Mark Larson was joined by Pemon Rami for a discussion of Chicago theater as presented in Mark's Book *Ensemble: An Oral History of Chicago Theater*.

The video of this book club meeting and Mark's presentation is available on the HPHS web site at: [Ensemble](#)

#### **August Program - Chicago Policy King House Tour**

On Saturday, August 15, 50 participants journeyed to West Woodlawn via Zoom for an extraordinary tour of a historic house at South Eberhart Avenue and East 65<sup>th</sup> Street built in 1926 by the legendary Chicago policy king Henry Young. The tour was led by HPHS Board member Clinée Hedspeth, proud owner of the home.

The video of this program is available on the HPHS web site at: [Chicago Policy King House Tour](#)

#### **August Book Club – *Chicago Artist Colonies***

Author Keith Stolte and Zac Bleicher of the Edgar Miller Legacy led 20 members of the Hyde Park Book Club through a presentation and discussion of the many artists colonies in Chicago from the 1800's through the 1940's as featured in Keith's book *Chicago Artist Colonies*.

The video of this book club meeting and Keith and Zac's presentation is available on the HPHS web site at: [Chicago Artist Colonies](#)

## **June Program – There's Art in Them Thar Revetments!**

On Saturday, June 27, 2020 Bill Swislow gave a presentation on the stone carvings found in the revetments found along Chicago's lakefront. These carvings are one of the world's most remarkable outdoor art treasures that lies hidden in plain sight along Chicago's Lake Michigan waterfront.

The video of this program is available on the HPHS web site at: [Revetments!](#)