

HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN



September 2020

www.hydeparkhistory.org, 773-493-1893

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hyde Park Book Club – Monday, October 19, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author Carlo Rotella, *The World is Always Coming to an End: Pulling Together and Apart in a Chicago Neighborhood*. The neighborhood is South Shore, featuring the author's research, interviews, personal memoir and so much more from the 1970's to the present. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on October 19.

Hyde Park Book Club – Monday, November 16, 7:30pm via Zoom. Peter Ascoli, author and grandson of Julius Rosenwald will discuss his biography of his grandfather: *Julius Rosenwald: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on November 16.

Hyde Park Book Club – Monday, January 18, 2021, 7:30pm via Zoom. Authors Richard Courage and Christopher Robert Reed will join us for a discussion of Black History and Arts in Chicago. Books to be discussed include: *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*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on January 18.

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 (1937-2017). *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, representing the publisher, A Public Space, will join the conversation.

Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on February 15.

Book Club Contacts: Carol Vieth, ultra5300@earthlink.net; Michal Safar, president@hydeparkhistory.org.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Recruiting for New HPHS Board Members!

HPHS is looking for new board members. Based on your experience and involvement, if you are interested in joining our board, please send us your email and we will send you a Prospective Board Member Information Sheet. The deadline for returning the Board Member Information Sheets will be Friday, October 30th. Additional details to follow via a separate announcement.

Janice A. Knox, HPHS Vice President / Nominating Committee Chair
Email: VicePresident@hydeparkhistory.org

ANNOUNCEMENT!

HPHS Annual Fund Drive Starts Soon!

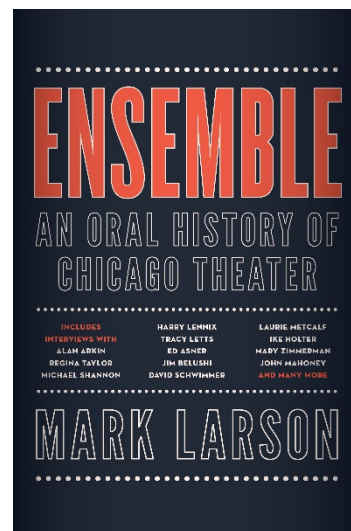
The HPHS Annual Fund Drive will take place in October 2020. Look for details in your email/snail-mail. We need your support!

Contact Michal Safar for more information. President@hydeparkhistory.org

HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB – *ENSEMBLE: ORAL HISTORY OF CHICAGO THEATER*, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

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*.

Ensemble is the definitive history of Chicago theater, as told by the artists both onstage and behind the scenes. Mark conducted over 300 interviews with theater artists, and his presentation to the book club featured audio clips from his interviews with Bruce Sagan about Harper Theater, and Nick Rudall and Charlie Newell about Court Theatre. He also discussed the Compass Players and the Playwrights Theater Club, both with origins in Hyde Park. Mark was joined by long-time theater director and producer, Pemon Rami, who started in Chicago theater in 1968 with the South Side Center for Performing Arts. Pemon spoke to the rich history of Black theater on Chicago's South Side.



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

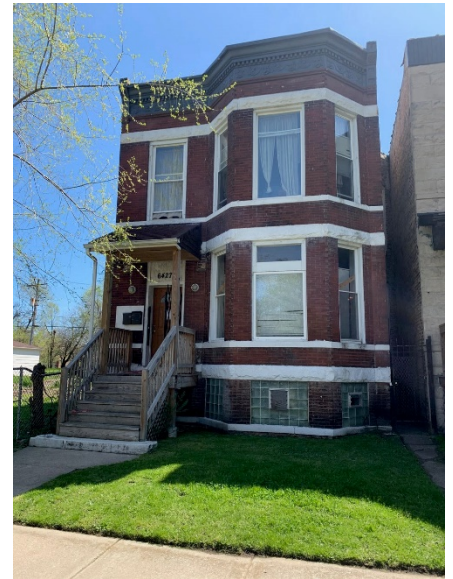
PRESERVATION NEWS – WATCH LIST

Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence – Update 10/1/20

On Thursday, October 1, 2020 it was announced at the Chicago Commission on Landmarks meeting that the Emmett Till House will be sold to the Woodlawn community organization, Blacks in Green.

On Thursday, September 3, 2020 the Chicago Commission on Landmarks approved the Preliminary Landmark Designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House.

Since 2017 Preservation Chicago has been proposing to have the City of Chicago's Commission on Chicago Landmarks honor the memory of Emmett Till by landmarking the house where Emmett Till and his family were living when he was murdered on August 28th, 1955. The HPHS Preservation Committee worked with Preservation Chicago, which took the lead in the nomination process.



This nomination was enthusiastically supported by:

Alderman Jeanette Taylor, 20th

Blacks in Green, Naomi Davis, President

The Emmett Till family, Ollie Gordon & Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler Parker, Jr.

The Society of Architectural Historians, Pauline Saliga & Bryan Green

Preservation of Affordable Housing-Chicago, William Eager, Senior Vice-President

Blake McCreight, owner of the property

Preservation Chicago, Ward Miller, Executive Director

The Hyde Park Historical Society, Michal Safar & Jack Spicer

The next steps now that the preliminary designation has been approved will be a neighborhood impact study, a public hearing and, after a review of all the information collected, a recommendation from the Chicago Commission on Landmarks for approval by the City Council. Prior to a vote in the City Council, the City Council on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards will review the recommendation and vote whether or not to recommend the designation to the City Council. The landmark designation process is not complete until the City Council votes on the recommendation.

Additional Information:

<https://chicagocrusader.com/push-to-make-emmett-tills-house-a-landmark/>

https://www.wbez.org/stories/_/f8abe096-9cbc-4eed-9deb-81aed022954b

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/apr/25/emmett-till-long-wait-for-justice>

Tight Little Island: Chicago's West Woodlawn Neighborhood, 1900-1950 in the Words of its Inhabitants

Muddy Waters' Home, 4339 S. Lake Park Avenue

The Muddy Waters Mojo Museum has received a \$50,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund towards renovation of the Muddy Waters home.

Roseland's South Michigan Avenue Historic Commercial District, S. Michigan Avenue, 100th to 115th Streets

<https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/chicago-7-most-endangered-2020-roseland-michigan-avenue-commercial-district/>

United Church of Hyde Park, Blackstone Avenue at 53rd Street, 1889

The church is currently seeking landmark status for the building.

https://www.hpherald.com/news/local/residents-gather-to-see-ways-to-save-hyde-park-united/article_daff48c-575b-11ea-aeec-136efc539a6a.html

Jeffery Theater Building, Jeffery Boulevard and 71st Street, 1923

Washington National Bank Building, Cottage Grove Avenue & 63rd Street, 1924

This building is still slated for demolition. Alderman Taylor's office is reviewing the situation.

<https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/washington-park-bank/>

The Forum Building, 318 East 43rd street, 1897

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/urban-juncture-foundation/raise-the-roof-fund-the-forum>

Promontory Point, 55th Street and Lake Michigan

<https://www.promontorypoint.org/about>

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/Burnham-Park/>

Jackson Park, The Obama Presidential Center

For more information on any of the above Hyde Park Historical Society preservation efforts, contact Jack Spicer, jackspicer@earthlink.net

HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE – COVID-19 AND THE HYDE PARK COMMUNITY

PLEASE SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



Photo of masked sanitation workers in Chicago during the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic from the Chicago Sun Times

COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, is a worldwide pandemic that has had wide reaching impacts on every member of our community.

The Hyde Park Historical Society wants to hear from you about how you, your family, and our community are being affected. Please tell us your story so we can add your voice to the history of our community. While the Historical Society is focused on the Hyde Park Township area, we value responses from anyone who would like to participate.

Please fill out the form at [COVID-19 Hyde Park Archive](#) to share your story with us.

If you would like to share photographs or a video, or both, please email them to hphscovid@gmail.com.

If you would like to submit a diary or journal of your experience, please email it to hphscovid@gmail.com or mail it to the HPHS Headquarters.

Any physical ephemera can be mailed to the Hyde Park Historical Society's Headquarters at 5529 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60637. Anything received will not be returned to the sender and will become property of the Historical Society.

We at the Hyde Park Historical Society hope to be able to share selected stories with the community on an ongoing basis.