

DEERFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

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THE FIGHT TO INTEGRATE

DEERFIELD

60 YEAR REFLECTION

Schedule of Events

*Register in advance at deerfieldlibrary.org or 847.945.3311.
Events are open to all ages, unless otherwise noted.*

Art Shay Photography Unveiling & Reception

Monday, January 21, 2019

5:00 - 6:30 pm (no registration)

Be the Change

Monday, February 11, 2019

Grades K-2

5:30 - 6:30 pm

The Fire Next Time Book Discussion

Thursday, February 21, 2019

7:00 - 8:00 pm

I Am Not Your Negro Film Discussion

Thursday, February 28, 2019

6:30 - 8:30 pm

60 Year Reflection Panel Discussion

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Through the Lens of Art Shay

Saturday, April 13, 2019

2:00 - 3:00 pm

The Hate U Give Book Discussion

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Grades 6-12

7:00 - 8:00 pm

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America

Thursday, May 2, 2019

7:00 - 8:00 pm

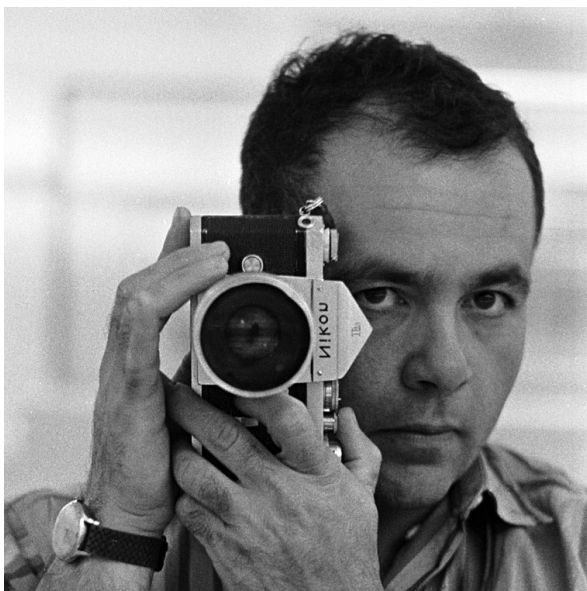
The Fight to Integrate Deerfield

In November 1959, residents of Deerfield, Illinois learned a housing developer planned to sell homes in the village to black buyers as well as white buyers. Many residents of the all-white Chicago suburb opposed the development. Some residents opposed integration altogether, or cited fears that their home values would decline after integration. A smaller group of residents supported the development, forming the group Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights.

In the context of the civil rights movement, the crisis in Deerfield quickly became a national fight over integration in the post-war suburban housing boom. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke on the issue, saying, "I have no doubt that integration will work in Deerfield." Eleanor Roosevelt visited the village and said, "Deerfield is the Little Rock of housing."

During the weeks that followed, members of the community pushed for a referendum to condemn the developer's land for new parks. Though previous referendums had failed earlier that same year, in December 1959, the new referendum passed two-to-one. The developer and village officials clashed in court over the legality of the land condemnation and the developer's rights. Ultimately, in 1963, the courts found no proof of racial animus on the part of the village, and the land became public parks that stand today.

Continuing a community tradition, the Library is inviting residents, historians, and experts to offer new insights into this history. We have updated our archives, made new acquisitions and even new discoveries. We invite you to join us for a series of discussions, lectures, and other opportunities to reflect on the 60 years since the fight to integrate Deerfield began.



© Art Shay Archives

Art Shay

Art Shay (1922-2018) was a renowned photographer, working for publications like *Life*, *Time*, and *Sports Illustrated* to photograph some of the most notable people of the 20th century. Shay was also a longtime Deerfield resident. Starting in 1959, he turned his lens on the news at home, documenting the years of protests, community meetings, and speeches in the fight to integrate Deerfield. These photographs constitute a documentary and artistic record of the crisis from an insider; Shay and his wife Florence were members of the Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights group.

Join us for two programs that celebrate Shay's life and legacy.

Art Shay Photography Unveiling & Reception

Monday, January 21, 2019 / 5:00 - 6:30 pm

A generous donation from the Friends of the Deerfield Public Library has made possible the purchase of two Shay photographs for the Library's permanent collection. Our Martin Luther King Jr. Day reception and photography unveiling will introduce our program series and offer illuminating information about our new photographs. Refreshments will be served.

Through the Lens of Art Shay

Saturday, April 13, 2019 / 2:00 - 3:00 pm

See the history of the Deerfield integration crisis through previously unseen photographs taken by Art Shay. Led by Professor Erik Gellman and based on his forthcoming book, *Troublemakers: Chicago Freedom Struggles through the Lens of Art Shay*, this program will provide an engaging look into the past.

Additional Shay photographs will also be on view at the Library, on loan from the Art Shay Archives. See Exhibits, pg. 9.



© Art Shay Archives

James Baldwin

One of the most prominent American authors of the 20th century, James Baldwin (1924-1987) is celebrated for novels and essays that explore the complex intersections of race, class, and sexuality in books like *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, *Notes of a Native Son*, *Giovanni's Room*, and *The Fire Next Time*, among others.

Little-known until now, Baldwin's visit to Deerfield in connection with the fight over integration, as documented by Art Shay, is a major discovery for local history. This adds a rich perspective from which to consider the community's activism.

The Fire Next Time Book Discussion

Thursday, February 21, 2019 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm

The Fire Next Time is considered one of the central literary works to come out of the civil rights movement and one of the most influential essays in American literature. We will discuss how Baldwin's book reflects on Deerfield history and how his words resonate today. Books are available at the Adult Services desk one month before the discussion.

I Am Not Your Negro Film Discussion

Thursday, February 28, 2019 / 6:30 - 8:30 pm

The award-winning documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* (2017) mixes Baldwin's published and unpublished writing with archival footage of the author, classic Hollywood movies, and contemporary activism to examine Baldwin's message for a new era. Directed by Raoul Peck and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. A short discussion will follow the film screening.

60 Year Reflection Panel Discussion

Tuesday, March 12, 2019 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for an upfront and informative panel discussion on Deerfield's history and its lasting legacy. Hear dramatic personal stories from residents and unique reflections from historians who have studied the fight to integrate Deerfield and Chicagoland.

Q & A will follow the panel discussion.

PANELISTS

Graham Ambrose

Graham Ambrose grew up in Deerfield and graduated from Yale in 2018. He wrote his history thesis on Deerfield's integration crisis and brings to the panel the perspective of a historian, writer, and resident. He has written for *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*.

Natalie Moore

Natalie Moore is an award-winning author and journalist, currently working as the South Side Reporter for WBEZ. Her 2016 book, *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*, combines memoir, reporting, and historical analysis to examine the effects of segregation today. Moore lives in Chicago.

Amy Roost & Angelle Smith

Amy Roost grew up in Deerfield knowing she was adopted. What Amy didn't know was that she was the second girl adopted by her family. The family adopted and then gave back a black baby, Rebecca, deciding that raising her in Deerfield in 1962 would be too difficult.



As an adult, Amy found her sister Rebecca — Angelle Smith. Angelle had been adopted and raised by a loving black family in Chicago. In December 2017, they shared their story in a viral *New York Times* article, "The Adopted Black Baby and the White One Who Replaced Her." Their story was also shared in the podcast "Finding Rebecca" for *Snap Judgement*. The film rights to their story were purchased by 20th Century Fox.

Amy Roost is a writer and documentary podcaster. She wrote and produced the podcast, "Finding Rebecca," which was nominated for a Peabody Award. She is a contributor to and co-editor of the book *Fury: Women's Lived Experiences in the Trump Era*. She is also the host of the podcast *Fury*, distributed by Critical Frequency Network.

Angelle Smith, a victim of racial discrimination in Deerfield in the 1960s, describes herself as "more than a conqueror." Angelle is a motivational speaker, transformational life coach, and blogger addressing the issues of family reunification, discrimination, self-awareness, forgiveness, and gratitude.

Look for Angelle and Amy's co-written memoir, and the film of their story, coming Fall 2019.

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America

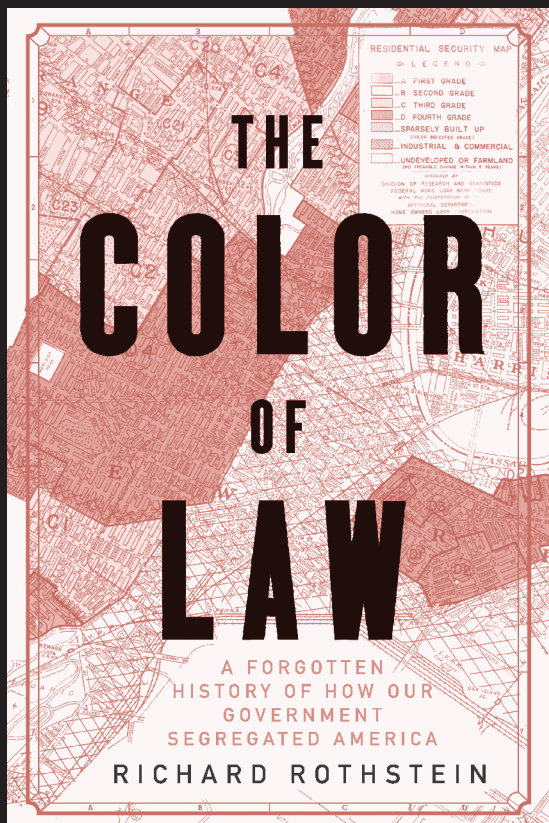
Thursday, May 2, 2019 /
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Why, in 1959, was Deerfield
segregated in the first place?
Why is Chicagoland still so
segregated?



Join Richard Rothstein, author of
*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government
Segregated America*, as he reveals how the fight to integrate
Deerfield fits in with the larger history and legacy of housing
discrimination. Rothstein, a leading authority on housing
policy, makes clear that the laws and policy decisions passed
by local, state, and federal governments actually promoted the
discriminatory patterns that continue to this day.

Q&A will follow. Books will be available for purchase and
signing.



Youth and Teen Programs

These programs are specifically designed to provide young people an opportunity to explore ways communities make change and to engage with history and present-day issues. In addition to these programs, the Library is partnering with Deerfield schools to enhance existing curriculum related to this important chapter in local history. Be sure to stop by the Youth Services Department for displays and booklists.

Be the Change

Monday, February 11, 2019 / 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Grades K-2

Together we'll learn about changemakers from around the world and explore ways you can make a difference in your community at this fun and interactive program!

The Hate U Give Book Discussion

Tuesday, April 16, 2019 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Grades 6-12

Join Nina, the Teen Librarian, for a discussion of *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas as part of the Pizza & Paperbacks series. Please register in advance, as free copies of the book will be given to participants to keep.



© Art Shay Archives

Suggested Reading

These titles either refer specifically to Deerfield and the history of housing discrimination or encourage critical thinking and inspire conversations about the broader issues of race and justice in America. You can find all of these titles at the Library. Extended lists can be found on our website, deerfieldlibrary.org/FID.

Adult Titles

- ▶ *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein
- ▶ *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North* by Thomas J. Sugrue
- ▶ *But Not Next Door* by Harry Rosen and David Rosen
- ▶ *Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism* by James Loewen
- ▶ *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation* by Natalie Moore
- ▶ *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- ▶ *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi
- ▶ *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- ▶ *We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation* by Jeff Chang
- ▶ *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson

Teen Titles

- ▶ *Black Lives Matter* by Sue Bradford Edwards
- ▶ *March* by John Lewis *Book One, Book Two, Book Three*
- ▶ *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans* by Don Brown
- ▶ *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* by Melba Beals
- ▶ *We Are Not Yet Equal: Understanding Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson & Tonya Bolden

Youth Titles

- ▶ *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson
- ▶ *Let's Talk About Race* by Julius Lester
- ▶ *Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness* by Anastasia Higginbotham
- ▶ *Crossing Jordan* by Adrian Fogelin
- ▶ *The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend* by Sharon Robinson
- ▶ *The Rock and the River* by Kekla Magoon



As part of our 60 year reflection, the Library is featuring our collection of materials related to the fight to integrate Deerfield in several unique ways.

Website

At deerfieldlibrary.org/FID you can access a wealth of information and resources, including online exhibits, interviews, discussion guides, booklists, a timeline of events, and our historical archives. This website will serve as the online home for our resources for years to come so that, beyond our program series, future generations of residents, researchers, and students will have access to our materials.

Historical Archives

The preservation and conservation of our physical archives has been an important component of our 60 year reflection project. Standout items include newspaper articles quoting Eleanor Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr., as well as a specimen ballot for the park referendum, anti-integration editorials, and items related to the formation of the pro-integration Deerfield Citizens for Human Rights.

See our newly digitized local history collection at deerfieldlibrary.org/FID.

Exhibits

The Library is hosting special exhibits that feature our original primary source materials, including newspaper articles, propaganda, protest handouts, photographs, and more. These temporary displays will spotlight items from our collection as well as rare materials on loan from the Art Shay Archives. This is an extraordinary opportunity to reflect on these artifacts in person.

Exhibits will be displayed in several locations throughout the Library and be on view for the duration of our program series. Guided tours of our exhibits are available for groups of six or more; to schedule a 45 minute staff-led tour, email deerfieldhistory@deerfieldlibrary.org.

Share Your Story

We welcome you to share your story with the Library. We are interested in personal stories, memories, contemporary reflections, and physical documents related to the fight to integrate Deerfield.

Email deerfieldhistory@deerfieldlibrary.org to get started.

Thank you to the Friends of the Deerfield Public Library,
Erica DeGlopper and the Art Shay Archives, Gallery Victor,
and Gale Gand.

Visit the program website at
deerfieldlibrary.org/FID

Photo Credits:

pg. 2: Self portrait, Art Shay © Art Shay Archives

pg. 3: James Baldwin, Deerfield, IL, c. 1959-63
© Art Shay Archives

pg. 4: Courtesy of Amy Roost & Angelle Smith

pg. 6: Protest in Deerfield park, 1963 © Art Shay Archives

pgs. 8-9: "Deerfield Protesters, 1963" © Art Shay Archives

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