

BOOK BAG

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March 2015

Chicago Humanities Festival

Denise I. O'Neal

Chicago Humanities Festival Winter 2015 continues with a discussion by Cristina Henriquez, author of *The Book of Unknown Americans*, 6 p.m. March 18 in the auditorium at the Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, 31 W. Ohio.

Henriquez, recently named as one of Crain Chicago Business' "40 under 40," will discuss her book, which although a novel, resonates with the melting pot of voices that depicts what it means to be an American.

Henriquez is also the author of *Come Together, Fall Apart* (New York Times Editor's Choice) and *The World in Half*. Her works have also appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Atlantic*.



Coya Paz, assistant professor at the theatre school of DePaul University and artistic director of Free Street Theatre, joins Henriquez for the discussion. A book signing follows the discussion.

DePaul University graduate and local poet Javon J. Smith opens the evening with a reading of his works. Smith is currently working on a poetry collection titled, *Righteous Rage*.

Tickets are \$15, general public. Discounts are available for CHF members and students. chicagohumanities

CPL celebrates women

Denise I. O'Neal

The Chicago Public Library celebrates Women's History Month with a salute to women in leadership roles in Chicago history.



The library will feature a range of programs that will include lectures, book discussions, concerts, documentary film screenings and children's programs.

A book discussion on the "The Lives of Betty Friedan, is one of the events spotlighted for the month. The public is encouraged to read one of three biographies on the Chicago feminist Betty Friedan including her autobiography *Life so Far* as well as *Betty Friedan and the Making of the Feminine Mystique* (Daniel Horowitz) and *Her Life* (Judith Hennessee).

The Chicago author's 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique* is credited with helping to usher in the women's movement. For a listing of events visit chipublic

New releases for March 2015

Cold Betrayal, J.A. Jance, (Ali Reynolds Novel): March 10

Dark Debt, Chloe Neill (#11 Chicagoland Vampires): March 3

The Dead Key, D.M. Pulley (Thriller): March 1

Endangered, C.J. Box (Joe Pickett Novel): March 10

Festive in Death, J.D. Robb (Thriller): March 3

The Fifth Gospel: A Novel, Ian Caldwell (Thriller): March 3

The Fifth Heart, Dan Simmons (Thriller): March 24

Game of Mirrors, Andrea Camilleri and Stephen Sartarelli (Inspector Montalbano): March 31

Guarding His Heart, Annie Seaton (Romance): March 10

Instinct, Sherrilyn Kenyon, (#6 Chronicles of Nick): March 31

Liar's Inc., Paula Stokes (Teen): March 24

Mosquitoland, David Arnold (Young Adult): March 3

The Night Crew, Brian Haig (Thriller): March 10

Murder on the Champ de Mars, Cara Black (Aimee Leduc series): March 3

Someone is Watching, Joy Fielding (Thriller): March 24

Stalker's Bounty, Chris Strange (Action): March 6

Tryst, Alex Rosa (Adult, ebook): March 17

Viper, Maurizio de Giovanni (Commissario Ricciardi Mystery): March 3

We All Looked Up, Tommy Wallach (Young Adult): March 24

The Winner's Crime, Marie Rutkoski (#2 in Winner's Trilogy): March 3

The Wrong Side of Right, Jean Marie Thorne (Young Adult): March 17



Comic corner:

Carrie Fisher Star Wars' Princess Leia is among the guests scheduled to be in attendance during the Indiana Comic Con being held March 13-15 at the Indianapolis Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol, Indianapolis. Fisher is scheduled for signings and photo sessions March 14-15 only.

Other guests include Jason Moma (Game of Thrones); Jenna Coleman (Doctor Who); Livvy Stubenrauch (voice for "Frozen's" Young Anna) and YouTube's Comicbook Girl19.

Informational sessions include "Getting into Comics Without Being a Creator," 12:30 p.m. March 13; "Genre Feminism," 8 p.m. March 14 and "Podcasting and Journalism: How We Got Started," noon March 15.

Activities include Nerdy Makeup, 9:30 p.m. March 13; Storybook time with Deadpool, 9 p.m. March 14 and Indiana's Got Talent showcase, 3:30 p.m. March 15.

Hours are: noon to midnight March 13; 10 a.m. to midnight March 14; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 15.

indianacomicon.com

Book it:



Veronica Roth signs her book *In-surgent* from the Divergent Trilogy, 2 p.m. March 14 at Tivoli Theatre, 5021 Highland, Downers Grove. **andersons**

Eugenia Bone

Bone signs her book *The Kitchen Ecosystem*, 6 p.m. March 7 at The Book Cellar, 4736-38 N. Lincoln. **bookcellar**

Kate Alcott

Alcott signs her book *A Touch of Stardust*, 7 p.m. March 5, Anderson's Bookshop, 123 W. Jefferson Naperville. **andersons**

Merri Dee and Julia Tang Peters

Dee author of *Life Lessons on Faith, Forgiveness & Grace* and Peters, author of *Pivot Points: Five Decisions Every Successful Leader Must Make*, discuss their journeys of personal growth during "A Life Long Journey of Growth," moderated by Michael Verde, 6 p.m. March 11, Woman's Athletic Club, 626 N. Michigan. **bookstall**

Words and music

Marlon James does a reading during Columbia College Story Week's Literary Rock & Roll, 6 p.m. March 18 at Metro Chicago, 3730 N. Clark. Other readings by Samantha Irby and Garnett Kilberg-Cohen and Chris Abani. **metro**

The Classics Revisited

Diane L. LaFonte

Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, published in 1899, depicts Charles Marlow's experience as an ivory trader along the Congo River in Central Africa, which first appeared as a three-part serial in Blackwood's Magazine.

The serial, turned into a short novel, is a study of barbarian versus civilized culture and how those considered civilized often exhibit more barbaric behavior than the uncultured.

Conrad's series, almost that of a journal, is told in the narrative by a third party—

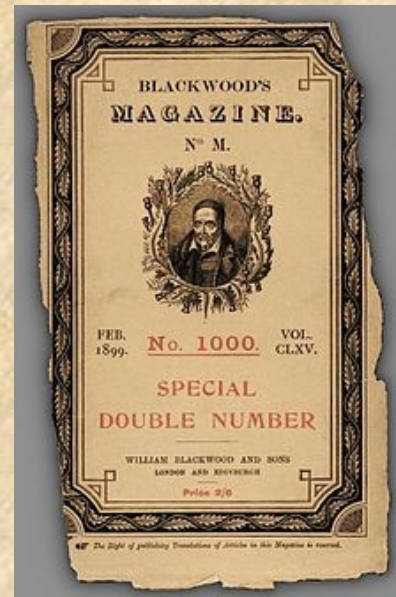
A fellow shipmate on a pleasure ship resting at the mouth of the Thames. As the group reminisces about the trading days Marlow is plagued by his memories as a young riverboat captain trading along the Congo River, which he recalls far differently from the group.

Conrad portrays Marlow as a tough, honest, complicated man reflecting his Victorian predecessors and sharing many of his fellow European prejudices. However, it is men like fellow trader Mr. Kurtz, whose superior air and blatant mistreatment of the natives triggers his own guilt.

Marlow becomes obsessed with fellow ivory trader, Mr. Kurtz, who is also the commander of a Belgian trading post referred to as "The Company." Considered by his European counterparts as a highly gifted, brilliant politician and leader Kurtz's true colors paint him the archetypal "evil genius."

Marlow, seeing through the self-righteous Kurtz, believes him to be without conscious, his only focus money, advancement and the abhorrent treatment of the regions indigenous people. Plagued by guilt over his compliancy to the mistreatment and exploitations of the natives Marlow struggles for inner peace.

Conrad's cast of characters illustrates the thin veneer of civilization that coats the more blatant barbaric treatment of the natives one character describing the undue harsh treatment of the natives, who are ridiculed and often treated like animals, as "a benevolent attempt to bring



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(Heart of Darkness cont.)

civilization to the region.”

Kurtz openly boast he doesn't trade but takes ivory by force and uses words like “suppression” and “extermination” to describe his treatment of the natives.

Marlow isn't without fault, referring to his helmsman as a “piece of machinery” and Kurtz's mysterious African mistress “a piece of statuary.” The continent of Africa itself comes under scrutiny, blamed for mental disintegration as well as physical illness. The madness that is closely linked to imperialism is also the result of being removed from one's social context and allowed to be the sole arbiter of one's own actions, with mental degeneration linked not only to absolute power but to man's fundamental fallibility.

Heart of Darkness is a powerful, prophetic and disturbing literary piece that offers a close examination of history not just in Africa, revealing similarities to the atrocities associated with imperialism and colonialism that lead to the emasculation and near genocide of the Native Americans in America.

Conrad's book is as pivotal in today's world as it was during the trading days along the Congo River with the elite utilizing a corrupt, corporate power base to spout and support rampant consumerism, racism, intolerance of the economically depressed and avarice. The result—a cultural “descent into madness” manifesting as hostility, violence and paranoia. We have become a crass, greedy world that overrides substance, providing a groundwork for amorality and evil. Sadly, more than a century after Conrad's account was published we as a civilization have advanced very little.

Book knowledge

Learn about the book business during The Book Brunch: Education and Enlightenment About Book Publishing, presented by 220 Communications, noon March 21, Columbia College, 1104 S. Wabash.

The literary brunch features sessions that include “You Wrote it Now Go Sell It,” “Social Media and Your Book,” The Storytellers (how fiction writers create stories)” “Self Help Authors Panel” and “Bringing Your Story to the Big or Small Screen.”

Special features include an authors meet and greet and book pitch contest with the possibility to win a publishing contract with 220 Publishing.

Tickets, \$35; \$25 in advance, include brunch, complimentary new release and post-event reception. **220communications**

The Writer's Workshop

The Writer's Workshop: Chicago, sponsored by Hay House, is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 21-22 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 9291 Bryn Mawr, Rosemont.

Featured authors include former Price WaterhouseCoopers International tax consultant and New York Times bestselling author inspirational writer Mike Dooley.

Reid Tracy, president/ceo of Hay House and former Hay House event director and author Nancy Levin lead sessions.

Sessions include “How to organize your thoughts into a book,” “How to rewrite and refine your work,” “How to handle rejections from publishers,” “How to manifest determination to publish your book,” “How to get a publisher's attention,” “How to find an agent,” “How to write a book proposal” and “How to contact the news media about your book.” **hayhouse**