

MARCH

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sunday, March 1

1 - 5 p.m. Education Programs/Family Series

Women's History Month Celebration



Courtesy of the National Woman's Party Collection, The Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, Washington, D.C.

Celebrate women in history and learn more about the Women's Suffrage Movement! Join The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. and the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum to decorate suffrage sashes, make posters to advocate for a cause you believe in, read stories about women in history and more! Stay after the activities to watch *Iron Jawed Angels*,

starring Hilary Swank, which tells the story of the suffragists working to pass the 19th amendment. A fun way for families, groups, and Scout troops to learn about women's history, the struggle for the right to vote and Washington, D.C.'s role! (All Ages) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

Sunday, March 1

2 - 3:30 p.m. Author Conversation/Interview

When The Word Is Written Series

Hosted by E. Ethelbert Miller

It's All Love: Black Writers on Soul Mates, Family and Friends

It's All Love is the title of Marita Golden's new anthology. A few days after the celebration of St. Valentine's Day she reminds us to never give-up on love. In *It's All Love*, Black writers celebrate the complexity, power, danger, and glory of love in all



its many forms: romantic, familial, communal, and sacred. Editor Marita Golden recounts the morning she woke up certain that she would meet her soul mate in "My Own Happy Ending"; memoirist Reginald Dwayne Betts, in a piece he calls "Learning the Name Dad," writes stirringly about serving time in prison and how that transformed his life for the better; New York Times bestselling author Pearl Cleage is at her best in the delicate, touching "Missing You"; award-winning author David Anthony Durham enraptures readers with his "An Act of Faith"; New York Times bestselling author L. A. Banks is both funny and wise in her beautiful essay on discovering love as a child, "Two Cents and a Question." And the poetry of love is here, too—from Gwendolyn Brooks's classic "Black Wedding Song" to works by Nikki Giovanni, E. Ethelbert Miller, and Kwame Alexander. *It's All Love* is a dazzling, delightfully diverse exploration of the wonderful gift of love.

Golden is one of America's leading literary institution builders. She is founder of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation. Her own work consists of such outstanding novels as *After*, *Long Distance Life*, *A Woman's Place*, *The Edge of Heaven*, and *Do Remember Me*. Marita Golden was inducted into the International Hall of Fame of African Descent at the Gwendolyn Brooks Center at Chicago State University. She is currently the Writer-in-Residence at the University of the District of Columbia. (Ages 16 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

Saturday, March 7

2 - 3 p.m. Research Series

D.C. Church Archives Workshop



Church archivists, volunteers and anyone interested in archiving church records are invited to join us at HSW's D.C. Church Archives Workshop. Creating a church archive involves not just saving papers, film and tape, but making the archives a living and useful resource for the members of the church's community. Workshop participants will learn about organizing, preserving and using documents essential to your church's history. Discussion will include basic archival principles as well as tips on selecting what to save, storing archival materials safely and creating archival policies. Reserve your place by Wednesday, March 4, 2009, by emailing info@historydc.org or calling 202-383-1850. (Ages 18 to Adults) Space is limited to 20 participants. Location: Kiplinger Research Library, 2nd floor, Historical Society of Washington, D.C. FREE

Saturday, March 7

2 - 4 p.m. Play Writing Workshop Two

Georgia Douglas Johnson Salon Series: Writing a Solo Show: Who is Your Sheroe?

Writing a Solo Show workshop explores how to create performance monologues using autobiographical materials or historical records transforming personal narratives into works of art for the theatrical stage. The class will open with the exploration of two short monologue plays or solo works followed by an analysis of how dramatic form is used the creation of these plays. Finally, the class will create and perform their own works.



Workshop leader, Sybil R. Williams is an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America and American University in Washington. Space limited to

15 participants. Class NOTE: THERE ARE NO PREREQUISITES !! (Ages 16 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

Saturday, March 7

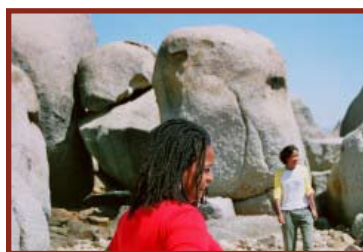
2 p.m. Family Film Series

Hip Hop Cinema Café Series

Counting Headz:

South Africa's Sistaz in Hip Hop

South Africa/Canada 2006 / 50 min. Xhosa, Zulu, English with English subtitles. Directors Vusi Magubane, Erin Offer



A production of solSource and HSW, this week's Hip Hop Cinema Café presents the riveting film, *Counting Headz*. It reveals the struggles and victories of South

Africa's women from the perspectives of three major performers in South Africa's hip-hop scene. It's a film to watch for those interested in hip hop, the growing number of female artists tackling this genre and for those of us intrigued with the spirit of South Africa.

"Until recently, the South African hip hop music scene was exclusively a male domain. This has changed and along with it the content of the music. Women are addressing crime and the hard life in inner cities unlike their male counterparts who dwell on fashion, fancy homes and cars. The film captures the evolution in overall content from a copy of American rap into a vehicle for addressing socio-political issues. MC Chi asks if there's a contradiction of values between African and hip-hop cultures, and if it's possible to reconcile the two. Her questions reflect the obstacles encountered by her fellow sistaz. DJ Sistamatic, challenged by a

distorted media portrayal of her persona, addresses the influence of male-formed images of women. World-renowned graffiti artist Smirk finds a way beyond her family's initial misgivings about her art to merge a life with hip hop and motherhood. These talented and formidable women tell us of their struggles, their passion, their successes and their hopes and in the process." [DOCNZ commentary]

After the film, you are invited to participate in an audience discussion with some of the best D.C. Female Emcees (RaTheMC, Carolyn Malachi, Porche' 9-11 and more) on the Hip Hop Scene and before the film the first look into D.C. Hip Hop History(Female Edition) with a video presentation from solSource Group. Live Performance follows with Carolyn Malachi. (A program collaboration of solSource Group and HSW) (Ages 15 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

Sunday, March 8

2:30 - 4 p.m. HSW Author & Lecture Series

To Love Mercy



It is June 1948. In a dark parking lot following a Chicago White Sox game, two boys encounter one another under the worst of circumstances ... and their worlds collide. Steve Feinberg, 10, white and Jewish, lives in comfortable circumstances in the white, liberal, heavily Jewish Hyde Park neighborhood just a few miles away. Jesse Owens "Sass" Trimble, 11, is black, the son of a storefront preacher, and lives just a few blocks from the parking lot in the black ghetto known as Bronzeville. Sass is accused of stealing a precious silver talisman from Steve's grandfather Nate, so the boys go off on a quest to find it and keep Sass out of jail. Instead, they jump on the "L" and get hopelessly lost for a long day and night, ranging across an increasingly hostile city. As dawn breaks over Lake Michigan the next morning, these two have come to a knowledge of themselves, and the world they live in, that their elders will never understand.



Frank Joseph cut his teeth as a writer at the famous training-ground City News Bureau of Chicago. He worked at The Associated Press, covering the Democratic National Convention street disorders, the Detroit riot, Dr. Martin Luther King's

march into Cicero IL, and just about every and incident of urban violence that defined the turbulent mid-'60s in Chicago. Joseph was an editor with The Washington Post during the Watergate years. In 1982, he founded Key Communications Group Inc., a specialized-information publishing company. He and his wife, Carol Jason, a sculptor and artist, met in Chicago and now live in Chevy Chase, Maryland; they are the parents of Shawn and Sam. (Ages 16 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

Saturday, March 14

2 - 4 p.m. Author Conversation / Interview

When The Word Is Written Series

Hosted by E. Ethelbert Miller

Breathing Room



Patricia Elam's first novel, *Breathing Room* was published in 2001. Yes, love stories still reside in Washington, D.C. Elam creates characters that share their relationships with you. Gossip and good things follow them into your own life. "The evolving relationship between two African-American women forms

the centerpiece of this spirited, fluidly written debut novel set in contemporary Washington, D.C. Norma Simmons-Greer and Moxie Dillard have been friends since student days at Howard University. When the stress of being a good mother is exacerbated by the emotional withdrawal of her husband, Lawrence, Norma seeks comfort in her photography studio, where she meets and begins an affair with a white professor. Divorced Moxie, meanwhile, is raising her teenage daughter, Zadi, with the same zeal she puts into her work as a probation officer for adolescents. She is firm on discipline, and vocally supports black issues at the predominantly white private school where Zadi's father sends the girl.

When Moxie learns of Norma's interracial affair, she is deeply offended and the women become estranged. The Moxie/Norma story line, while absorbing, is eclipsed by Zadi's endearingly forthright diary entries. Obsessed by her maturing body, auditioning for the Dance Theatre of Harlem and trying not to be the last of her girlfriends left on the "V" (virgin) train, Zadi steals the show as a teen straddling the privileged world of her white schoolmates and the wanna-be rouge lifestyle of her secret boyfriend, Octavius, who is one of Moxie's clients. (Elam thanks several young adults from a high school writing program for contributing to Zadi's voice.) The sensitive handling of volatile topics (interracial affairs, teen drug use and dealing, and the loss of virginity) add immediacy to what is an affecting story of sisterhood." [Agent, Molly Friedrich]. Patricia Elam has published in the *Washington Post*, *Essence* and *Crisis* magazine. Elam has taught at Goucher College, The University of Maryland, The Writer's Center, Duke Ellington School of the Arts and currently works at Howard University. (Ages 16 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE



Site of Lincoln Legacy National Town Hall

Take part in this history-making event! The Lincoln Legacy National Town Hall is a Bicentennial commemoration of Lincoln's life and legacy and will be a bright beacon to completing our nation's "unfinished work." (Town Halls have been funded in a major part by the Fetzer Institute of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Other funders include Prudential Financial Inc., and the Marjorie Kovler Fund.) (Ages 16 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

Sunday, March 22

2:30 - 4 p.m. HSW Author & Lecture Series

The Washington National Mall



Peter Penczer's *The Washington National Mall* is the first general history of America's greatest urban park. Learn the fascinating stories behind the monuments and museums, from the

best known to the most obscure. The Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the Lincoln Memorial are all here, as are forgotten landmarks such as the Fish Commission, the Redwood Tree House, and Braddock's Rock. This amply illustrated volume has more than 100 archival photographs, many never before published, as well as recent color photographs of the monuments and museums. A detailed two-page map of the Mall and the surrounding area serve as a handy reference guide for visitors.

Peter Penczer is an archivist at the B.F. Saul Company in Bethesda, Maryland. *The Washington National Mall* is his second book. His first, *Washington, D.C., Past and Present*, was published in 1998. A native of Connecticut, he has lived in the Washington area since 1984.

Saturday, March 28

1 - 2:30 p.m. Family Urban Gardening

"Right Tree, Right Space"

Tree planting is the most widely celebrated environmental stewardship activity in America. Tree planting builds and strengthens community spirit, passes the story of trees from older to younger generations, and symbolizes hope for the natural environment within which we live. At Casey Trees we recognize the power of tree planting. We will continue supporting, creating and expanding activities that encourage District residents and others to plant and care for trees on both public and private lands alike.



Jim Woodworth, Director of Tree Planting, will discuss site level concepts such as "Right Tree, Right Space", and introduce the broader process of setting and achieving an Urban Tree Canopy Goal. He will also provide a survey of Casey Trees planting programs and new initiatives, including: the Community Tree Planting Program, our most visible program for engaging neighbors and community groups; American elm restoration which has been a core part of our tree planting efforts since 2003; and the Commemorative Tree Program, a special and lasting way to celebrate, commemorate and honor the lives and accomplishments of loved ones and colleagues. More recently, Casey Trees has developed several new planting initiatives, with the D.C. Department of Environment, targeted at D.C. residents and homeowners, including our Tree Rebate Program, the Home Owner Design Workshop, and our recent foray into fruit trees and urban orchards.

Jim Woodworth is a certified arborist and the Director of Tree Planting Programs at Casey Trees. He has been overseeing program development and project implementation since 2003. (Ages 16 to Adults) RSVP@historydc.org or 202-383-1828. FREE

FEATURE

The Lincoln Inaugural Bible

Facing a nation divided, teetering toward civil war, President Lincoln used his first inaugural address to call for national unity, arguing that our Constitution was created "to form a more perfect Union." Now, 147 years later, President Barack Obama is echoing President Lincoln's call in words and in symbolism. With his wife Michelle holding the bible in the palms of her hands, President Obama, as he was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, placed his hand upon the same burgundy velvet-bound Bible used by President Lincoln at his first inauguration.



Front cover of the 1861 Lincoln Inaugural Bible: Photo by Michaela McNicho. Library of Congress

DON'T MISS!

Abraham Lincoln

Thursday, March 19

8 - 10 p.m. Lincoln Legacy National Town Hall

"Race, Freedom, and Equality of Opportunity: The Right to Vote"



Join us for the Lincoln Legacy National Town Hall taking place at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. This event will be broadcast live on WPFW-FM (89.3). Panelists will include noted local and national historians, elected officials, and community organizers, who will examine Washington's present

voting rights dilemma as well as discuss plans and strategies for securing the "Right to Vote" for District residents. The artistry of local poets and musicians will entertain and delight in between discussions.