

February – A Month of Possibilities in the Hartford History Center

HISTORY IN A HEART

Exhibition, 3rd Floor Administrative Gallery, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street

Month of February, beginning February 6

For everyone who loves to see or send Valentines, a wonderful show of antique Valentines will be on display and serves as proof that there's no such thing as "too cute." Collected nearly a century ago by pioneering city librarian Caroline M. Hewins, these Valentines capture the sentimentality of cards from 100 years ago. No smart-alecky jokes and no innuendo. Just sweet sentiment. The exhibition of Miss Hewins's historic Valentines will be on display throughout February.

MAKE YOUR OWN I-LOVE-YOU

With Master Artist Robert Charles Hudson

Saturday, February 9, Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Grownups, get back that lovin' feelin' by attending our Make-A-Valentine workshop in the Hartford History Center. We'll have everything you need – and we'll have an artist on site! Mixed-media artist Robert Charles Hudson will assist participants in the creation of their one-of-a-kind Valentines. The workshop is free and just for adults, but registration is required because of space limitations. Please go to www.hplct.org to register. Come and be romantic!

A POET AND THE POEMS OF RITA DOVE

Kate Rushin to Lead Book Talk on Former Poet Laureate

Tuesday, February 12, Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Connecticut-based poet Kate Rushin will lead an informal discussion on the poems of former national Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Rita Dove as part of the Hartford History Center's programming related to the lives and experiences of African Americans. Author of the award-winning poetry collection "The Black Back-ups," and widely published and anthologized, Rushin is the former director of the Center for African American Studies and Visiting Writer at Wesleyan University, and currently teaches creative writing at the Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater. Register online at www.hplct.org. Twenty copies of "Selected Poems" are available to registered participants. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Hartford History Center (the Center is on the 3rd floor of the downtown library and open 1-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday). Books generously provided by Connecticut Humanities.

GHOST SHIPS: CONNECTICUT, THE SLAVE TRADE & HUMAN MEMORY

Author Talk with Anne Farrow

Sunday, February 17, Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street

2:00-2:45 p.m.

Independent historian Anne Farrow will discuss the story behind "Ghost Ships: Connecticut, the Slave Trade & Human Memory," to be published by Wesleyan University Press in 2014. Anne followed a set of slaveship logs from New London to Sierra Leone, West Africa, and rebuilt a long-missing chapter from the story of Connecticut. Co-author of "Complicity, How the North Promoted, Prolonged and Profited from Slavery" (Random House/Ballantine Books, 2005), Anne will share her research and photographs from an abandoned slave castle in West Africa as she explores a forgotten history. Jazz follows in the Atrium. No registration required.

EXPLORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS

A Book Talk with Writer, Educator and TV Host Stan Simpson

Tuesday, February 19, Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library, 500 Main Street

6:30-8:00 p.m.

As part of the Hartford History Center's February programming of issues and literature key to African American life, Stan Simpson of Fox CT will lead an informal discussion of the immortal autobiography of black abolitionist and leader Frederick Douglass. "The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass" was first published in 1845, and is a short, hard-hitting classic by a man who escaped enslavement to become a national and world leader in the fight for black emancipation. Simpson, who was a writer and columnist for *The Hartford Courant* for 20 years, currently hosts "The Stan Simpson Show" on Fox CT, and was the founding director of the Hartford Journalism & Media Academy at Weaver High School in Hartford. The Hartford History Center book discussion, which promises to be a lively and wide-ranging one, is free and open to everyone, but registration is required. To register go to www.hplct.org. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Hartford History Center (the Center is on the 3rd floor of the downtown library and open 1-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday). Books generously provided by Connecticut Humanities.