



History of Fair Housing in Skokie

SKOKIE HERITAGE MUSEUM

JUNE 2024



A Few Notes

Language and preferred identifiers change over time. The historical materials I share today use a variety of terms, including "Colored" and "Negro" which were the preferred term for Black and African Americans in the early 1900s and mid-century respectively.

History is constantly being written and rewritten as new sources and evidence come to light. This history is by no means complete, and we invite you to share your perspectives with us at

museum@skokieparks.org.

NORTH SHORE TOWNS AROUSED.

Influx of Negroes Alarms the Residents of Evanston, Wilmette, Winnetka, and Glencoe.

The negro population of north shore towns steadily is increasing, and in Evanston the newcomers are deemed especially objectionable by the authorities, as there are four times as many cases of assault and larceny, according to police figures.

In Evanston, Wilmette, and Winnetka the negroes are occupying in some sections entire blocks. Glencoe residents are aroused over the influx of negroes. Out of a population of 1,200 it is estimated that more than 300 are colored.

As a solution of the problem suddenly presented, Evanston citizens are reviving the old scheme of a town for negroes, to be located near Niles Center. To this it is proposed to deport objectionable characters.

Chicago Tribune,

< Jan. 22, 1904

April 17, 1922 >

Early start to the Great Migration

Many North Shore towns prohibit or are about to prohibit residents based on race and ethnicity, especially Black and Jewish residents

Fearmongering and clearly coded racist language

Planning for segregation

(Note: Niles Center = Skokie)

COLORED COLONY ON NORTH SHORE?

Niles Center Is Aroused Over Scheme.

William Rankin Jr., 416 Madison avenue, Glencoe, announced yesterday that his real estate firm, Rankin, Wilson & Pegues, will establish immediately a colony of 700 homes for colored people, in the northeastern section of No Man's Land, 3,000 acres separating Evanston and Niles Center.

Niles Center is to vote tomorrow on a proposal to annex all the land between the village and Evanston's western border. If the annexation issue is carried—and City Clerk Charles F. Langfeld predicted last night it will pass—Niles Center soon may have its population of 325 augmented by several hundred colored citizens.

Evanston was aroused yesterday by the announcement, through an advertisement, that a colored colony is to be located at its western limits, less than half a mile from the site of a \$1,000,000

Legalizing Housing Discrimination

1.

Zoning, c. 1904-1917 and Beyond

Early zoning is industry and race-based - latter struck down in 1917 *Buchanan v. Warley*

Future zoning is economic-based, pricing many people out of the market

2.

Public Housing, c. 1935-1974

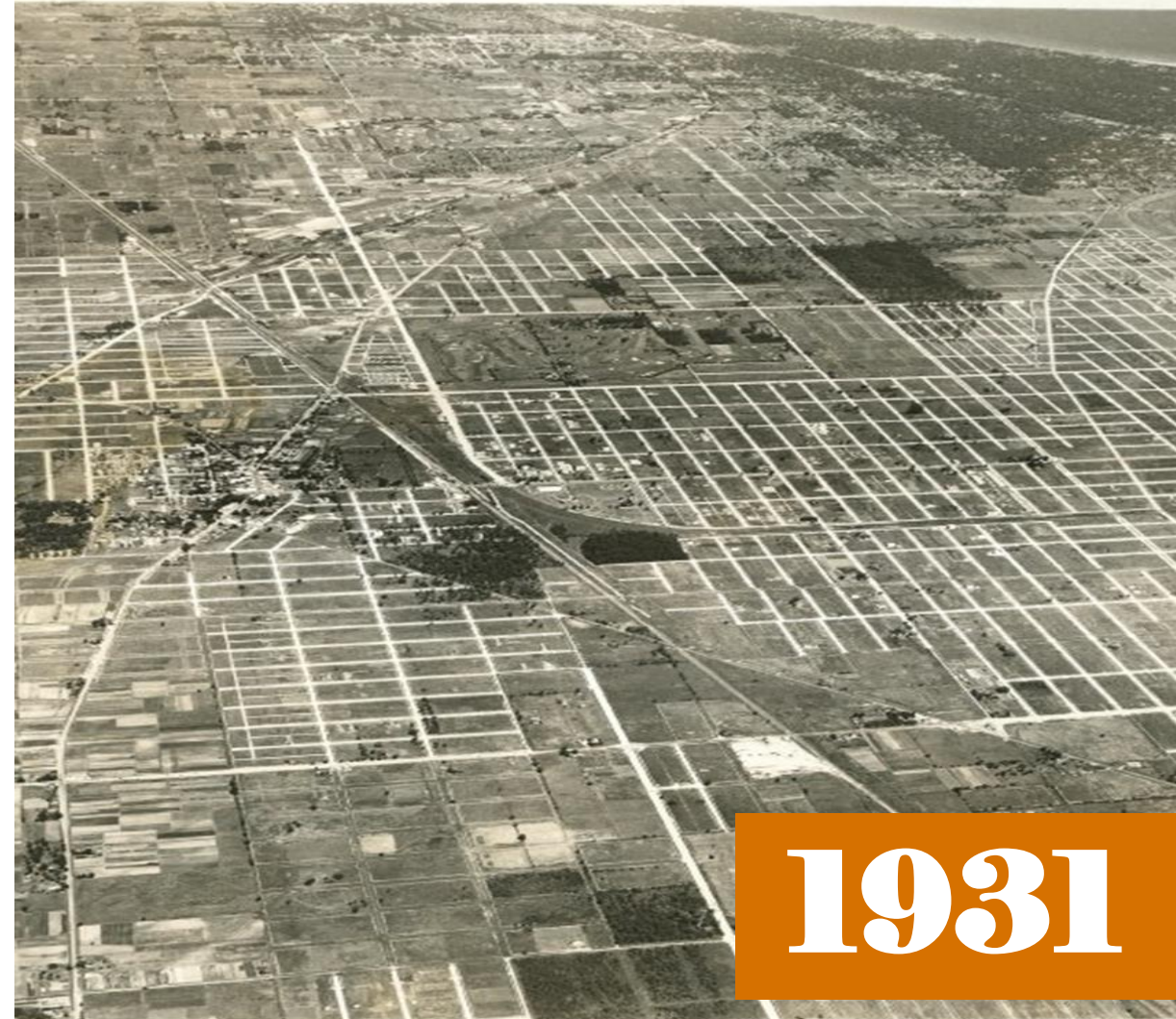
Public housing projects intensely segregated, disproportionately built and maintained for White citizens, leading to overcrowding and poor conditions in many Black neighborhoods

3.

Federal Housing Aid, c. 1934-1968

Federal assistance available to White buyers in White neighborhoods and builders of these

Whites buy homes (often SFHs in suburbs) and move out of urban public housing, building federally subsidized home equity while leaving deteriorating buildings for Black citizens



Residential

- 4% Best
- 15% Still Desirable
- 44% Definitely Declining
- 23% Hazardous

Commercial & Industrial

- 13% Industrial
- 1% Commercial

8. DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AREA

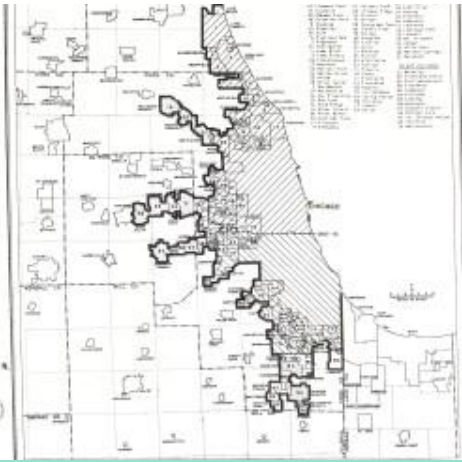
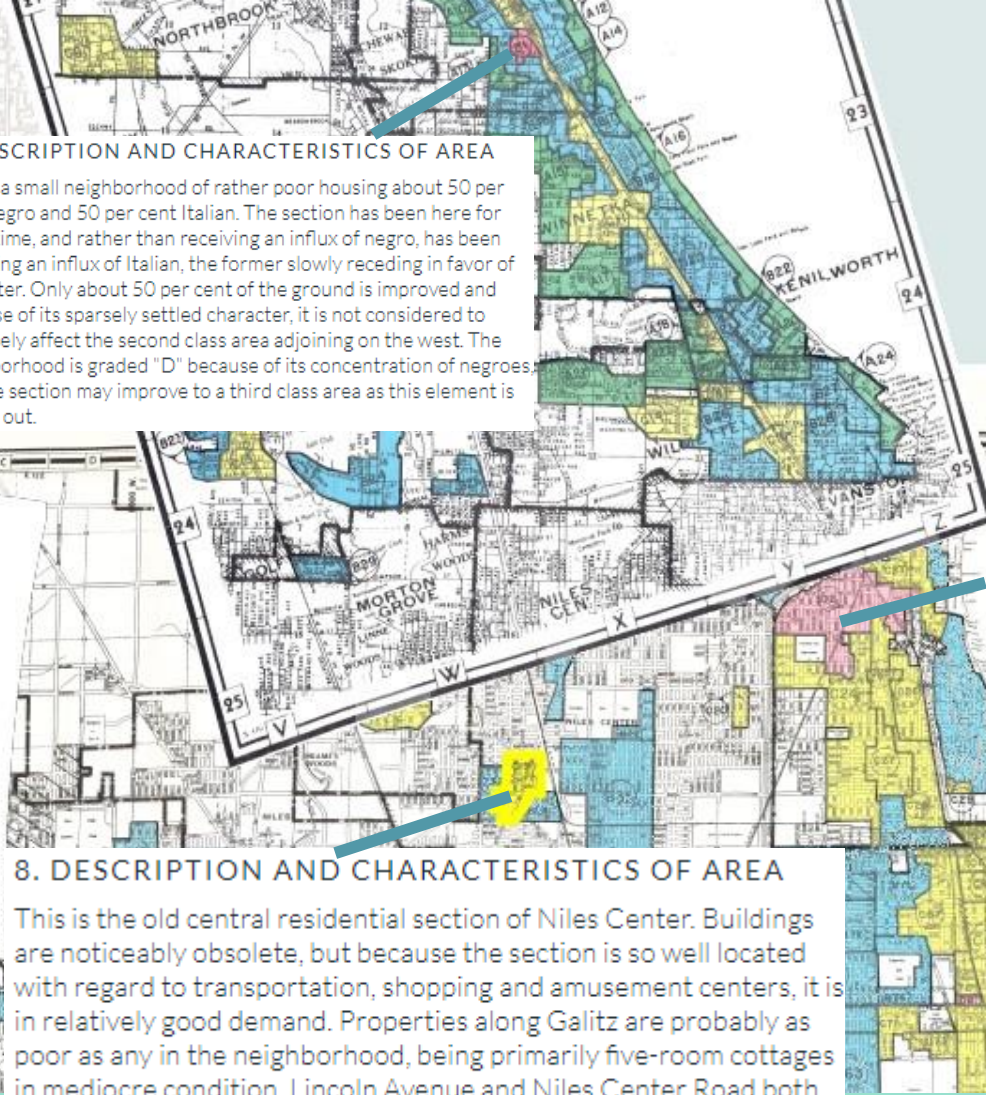
This is a small neighborhood of rather poor housing about 50 per cent negro and 50 per cent Italian. The section has been here for some time, and rather than receiving an influx of negro, has been receiving an influx of Italian, the former slowly receding in favor of the latter. Only about 50 per cent of the ground is improved and because of its sparsely settled character, it is not considered to adversely affect the second class area adjoining on the west. The neighborhood is graded "D" because of its concentration of negroes, but the section may improve to a third class area as this element is forced out.

8. DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AREA

This neighborhood houses the large negro population living in Evanston. It is somewhat better than the average negro district in that the bulk of the houses are one family detached units in anything but a congested district for this class of population. Here live the servants for many of the families all along the north shore. There is not a vacant house in the territory, and occupancy, moreover, is about 150 per cent, for most houses have more than one family living in them. Sales have been very good where liberal financing terms are available, but on other sales mortgage financing is virtually impossible to obtain. This concentration of negroes in Evanston is quite a serious problem for the town as they seem to be growing steadily and encroaching into adjoining neighborhoods. The two family structures are in most cases converted singles and they likewise are overflowing with occupants; these buildings are rented as unheated units. The number of persons on relief in this district is probably heavier than in any other area long the north shore. Altho the area is probably heavier than the class of occupants already here, it is difficult to say that the section is declining, for it is in constant demand because of the limited number of areas available for negro occupancy in the north shore towns.

8. DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF AREA

This is the old central residential section of Niles Center. Buildings are noticeably obsolete, but because the section is so well located with regard to transportation, shopping and amusement centers, it is in relatively good demand. Properties along Galitz are probably as poor as any in the neighborhood, being primarily five-room cottages in mediocre condition. Lincoln Avenue and Niles Center Road both carry a very heavy traffic flow.



Redlining

From the *Mapping Inequality* Project:
<https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining>

Harmswood Manor,
c. 1930-1980

Restrictions
All buildings must be built of brick, stone or concrete construction. No garage or other building shall be built until the main building is under construction.
All buildings are subject to the Zoning ordinances.
All lots fronting on Simpson Street may be used for business purposes and are not subject to a building line.
All other lots are to be used for residential and apartment purposes only, of not less than 2 stories in height and are subject to a 15ft. building line.
All lots are restricted to the caucasian.

Central Park
Addition,
c. 1940-1965

8 No noxious or offensive trade may be carried on upon any lot in this subdivision, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance to the neighborhood
9 No lot or lots or any interest therein may at any time hereafter be sold, conveyed, leased or transferred by a grantee or grantees or by any successor or successors in title of a grantee or grantees, either voluntary or by operation of law, to any person who is not a Caucasian, nor may any lot or lots or any improvement or improvements erected thereon, at any time hereafter be occupied in whole or in part by any person who is not a Caucasian, (Excepting, however, persons employed as servants by Caucasians residing on the premises).

Concord Lane
Subdivision,
c. 1942-1980

No building of any kind shall be constructed upon this easement. No residences in this subdivision shall be erected at a cost of less than \$9000⁰⁰ said cost to be computed on the basis of price levels in affect in this community on July 1, 1941.
All lots in this subdivision (except Lots 1-2-3 and 4) are hereby restricted to single family residences and that said premises shall not be conveyed or leased to nor occupied by any person who is not a Caucasian, except servants.

Blietz
Williams-
burg
Village,
c. 1950-
1980

-RESTRICTIONS-
NO LOTS OR LOT OR ANY INTEREST THEREIN MAY AT ANY TIME HEREAFTER BE SOLD, CONVEYED, LEASED OR TRANSFERRED BY A GRANTEE OR GRANTEEES OR BY ANY SUCCESSOR OR SUCCESSORS IN TITLE OF A GRANTEE OR GRANTEEES EITHER VOLUNTARY OR BY OPERATION OF LAW, TO ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT A CAUCASIAN, NOR MAY ANY LOT OR LOTS OR ANY IMPROVEMENT OR IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED THEREON AT ANY TIME HEREAFTER BE OCCUPIED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT A CAUCASIAN (EXCEPTING HOWEVER PERSONS EMPLOYED AS SERVANTS BY CAUCASIANS RESIDING ON THE PREMISES)

THE INTEREST OR INTERESTS OF ANY VENDOR OR VENDORS, ASSIGNEE OR ASSIGNEES, IN ANY CONTRACT FOR A DEED TO ANY LOT OR LOTS IN THIS SUBDIVISION MAY NOT AT ANY TIME HEREAFTER BE SOLD, TRANSFERRED, ASSIGNED OR CONVEYED EITHER VOLUNTARY OR BY OPERATION OF LAW TO ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT A CAUCASIAN

Racially Restrictive Covenants 1921-c. 1948/1968/Today?

From the Chicago Covenants Project:
<https://www.chicagocovenants.com/>

Volunteer-driven project mapping restricted covenants and plats in Cook County - only about 20% complete so far.

I-

Name:

The organization shall be known as the East Side Property Owners' Association of Niles Center, Illinois; hereinafter referred to as the Association.

II-

Purpose:

The purpose of this Association is civic improvement, remedial action against encroachment on property owners' rights and for the correction of unwarranted actions or policies of political servants.

III-

Membership:

Membership in this Association shall be granted to any person owning a property located in the district East of Cicero Avenue and North of Touhy Avenue and South of the alley South of Dempster Street within the village limits of Niles Center, Illinois; provided, however, that the person is of the Caucasian race, is of the male sex and has attained the age of 21 years.

IV-

Officers:

The officers of this Association shall comprise:

1. A president

East Side Property Owners' Association

Membership limited by race, sex, and age in
1940 original Constitution and bylaws

Section 9-41. CREATION OF COMMISSION.

A Human Relations Commission for the Village of Skokie is hereby created.

Section 9-42. SHORT TITLE.

This Ordinance shall be known as the Human Relations Commission Ordinance of 1961.

Section 9-43. Purposes.

The purposes for which this Commission is created are:

(A) To encourage understanding and respect between residents of Skokie of various racial, religious and nationality backgrounds.

(B) To safeguard the rights of all citizens as defined by our Ordinances, Statutes and Constitution.

Section 9-44. COMPOSITION.

(A) The Commission shall be composed of sixteen (16) members who shall reflect, so far as possible, the various ethnic groups in the Village, and whose training, interest, background or experience will aid the Commission in its work.

(B) The Village President, the Village Manager, the Corporation Counsel, and the Chief of Police shall serve the Commission as members ex-officio.

1961

Mr. and Mrs. Jones become first African American couple to buy home in Skokie

Real estate agent buys a front page ad

Niles Township's HRC sends out letter introducing Joneses and addressing rumors and falsehoods

Village of Skokie creates its HRC

NOTICE

TO ALL PEOPLE OF SKOKIE

Joseph J. Hansen, Real Estate Agent for Edwin Galowitch, builder, sold the residence at 9632 North Kildare Avenue on January 3, 1961 to Robert S. Basker and wife residing at 5010 Jarlath Avenue, Skokie.

Mr. & Mrs. Basker represented that they were purchasing said premises for their own residence.

(This is a paid advertisement)

Statement

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MANGER & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

VILLAGE OF SKOKIE, ILL. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie, the following statement is made.

The people of the Village of Skokie may rest assured that the constitutional and civil rights of all citizens and property owners, old and new, will be protected.

We are confident that all citizens of Skokie share our determination to maintain law and order, and to preserve the good name of our community.

(Signed) Bernard L. Marsh Village Manger

SKOKIE Review
"The Language of Truth is Simple"
-Lat-

VOL. XVI-NO. 45 Skokie, Illinois, Thursday, February 9, 1961 \$2.00 per Year-Single Copies 10c

Civic Achievement Party Announces April 4 Slate
(Photo by Robert Lewis)
Carrying the banner of the Civic Achievement Party of Skokie in the Apr. 4 Village election is the complete slate of candidates pictured above (l. to r.): trustee candidates John W. Mock, 957 Lincolnwood Dr., Samuel S. Berger, 9911 Forest View rd., Francis O. Mado, 4248 Keystone, and Dr. John Womala, 4940 Lee; village clerk candidate, James H. Holston, 4923 Kirk; village president candidate, Myron "Mike" Griesdorf, 4620 N. Greenwood, and trustee candidates Anthony "Tony" Ciarnowski, 5056 Prairie, and Richard C. Lindberg, 8455 Lockwood. Prior to picture-taking, candidates gathered to draft a declaration of governing philosophy embracing aims, objectives and conduct.

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(Signed) Bernard L. Marsh Village Manger

VFW Post 3854 Wins Contest; Seeks New Laurels
These happy smiles were the result of the announcement at the Round-up Dinner that Skokie won first place in the 4th District Membership contest. Seated are Commander "Bud" Ortmann and Mary Goberville, a member of Post #3854 Auxiliary and 4th District president. Standing are Walter...

1962

She sat quietly for awhile. "You can't comprehend what this was like unless it happened to you." She looked straight ahead with a blank expression. "The whole thing was outrageous."

- Dr. Gwen Fortune, 1984 Skokie Review



Gwen Fortune describes her early experience in Skokie trying, several times unsuccessfully, to buy a home. (Staff photo by Bradley S. Pines)

Scan to read her memoir *Outsider in the Promised Land* through SPL >>>



VILLAGE OF SKOKIE

5127 OAKTON STREET • SKOKIE, ILLINOIS • ORchard 3-0500

PRESIDENT MYRON GREISDORF
CLERK WILLIAM SIEGEL
MANAGER BERNARD L. MARSH
TRUSTEES SAMUEL S. BERGER
ANTHONY F. CZARNECKI, JR.
RICHARD C. LINDBERG
JOHN W. MOCK
FRANCIS O. NISSE
JOHN M. WOZNIAK

SHORT-RANGE PROGRAM

For Dealing with Imminent Move-In of a Non-White Family to a White Neighborhood

A. The following preliminary steps should be taken immediately upon learning the facts, and before the move-in takes place.

1. Map immediate area to nearest physical breaks, e.g., major cross streets. This will define the neighborhood affected. Aerial photo prints overlaid on a property-line map works fine. A scale of 100 ft. to the inch is excellent.
2. Obtain from local mailing or directory service two lists of residents in the affected neighborhood; one by alphabetical order, and one by street address. Get several copies of each, if more than one group must work with them.
3. Identify homes and owners on map. Suggest aerial photo print with house number and name entered on each house. Copy for each Commission member and official concerned, if feasible.
4. Call a meeting to enlist the cooperation and help of the following community groups: The press, the real estate brokers, the clergy, the financial institutions, and citizen groups (to provide manpower for telephoning, writing, answering calls, assignments, etc.) This should be done beforehand, if possible. It may be too late after the move-in process has started.
5. Attempt to establish identity of potential positive, neutral, and "negative" neighbors in immediate area. (Identification of adolescent males in negative families should prove especially helpful if any incidents occur).
6. Seek out background information -- especially church or synagogue affiliation -- on immediate neighbors (within three houses) in order to establish possible later personal contact by their minister, priest, rabbi, or others. (Mimeograph for use of Commission members).
7. Meet with clergymen prior to move-in to identify church and synagogue members. Request aid of involved ministers, priests, and rabbis for home visits. Make contact with "positive" neighbors and other people of strategic importance as they become known.

- 1962
- C. Notification of the impending event should be done in this way: Organize a block meeting for each block in the neighborhood, to be held in a private home, on the evening before the move-in takes place. No more than 10 or 12 families should be represented in each home meeting. Make clear that the owner is not the host; it is the Human Relations Commission. Avoid large meetings, especially in public buildings. It is important that potential agitators be split up in small simultaneous neighborhood meetings.
- D. Police Procedures:
1. Have the police department designate one man as liaison with the Commission during the move-in period of surveillance.
 2. Request the police department to establish a patrol of the area immediately after word of the impending move-in is transmitted to neighbors. This patrol should be as inconspicuous as possible, and it should be removed at the first feasible moment. There should be no use of flasher lights on the squad car unless absolutely necessary; any night lighting of the home (especially the rear) should be done from the home itself; reserve strength the first few days and nights should be deployed away from the immediate area while still available for emergency use, if needed.
 3. Identify potential troublemakers at block meetings and report the names to the police. Before the police guard is lifted, the most dangerous of these should be visited by a team of detectives.
 4. Maintain close contact with the new family before and after the move-in. Lift the police guard after threats and phone calls subside, and after notifying the new family.
- E. Other measures to take as needed:
1. Maintain close contact with real estate people in town, and ask them to designate two persons as liaison. These people will be your first line of defense against "block busters".
 2. Maintain close contact with and call on interested personnel as needed; American Friends Service Committee, Anti-Defamation League, Catholic Inter-racial Council, Chicago Commission on Human Relations, and National Conference of Christians and Jews. These agencies can supply published material and speeches for educational purposes.
 3. Request issuance of strong statement by the village government regarding policy on law and order, with request for full civic cooperation. Disseminate in affected area only, not by public announcement.

8. Establish facts about homes for sale in the neighborhood (the number of homes for sale, locations, asking prices, length of time on market). Requests should be made to remove "for sale" signs on any near to the non-white home. Record the "for sale" data for future reference.

9. Make contact with any known positive homeowners to advise them of imminent move-in just before advising others, to consult with them regarding other neighbors' expected reactions, and to ascertain the help that they will personally give. Ask them to forward information about neighborhood developments, rumors, etc. to one designated official.

B. Prepare the following written material and assemble into kits for each Commission member to use at block meetings:

1. A fact sheet on new family. Mimeograph for distribution to area residents, papers, etc. History, religion, profession or occupation, family members, and other pertinent facts should be mentioned.
2. A straight-forward account of the events leading up to the move-in; how the sale was made; how officials learned of it; schools and church which the family will attend; the time when the family will arrive, etc. Be very careful not to express suspicion or resentment. Be neutral and factual. Have this printed or reproduced.
3. Prepare, or have prepared in advance, a fact sheet listing the background and personal data of each Human Relations Commission member, in order to assure residents of the stature and judgment of these people. Print or reproduce for distribution.
4. A sheet advising or instructing the neighborhood residents on the conduct their city expects of them. Make these points:
 - (a) Sales by whites will invite panic and result in loss of value. This would be caused by them, not the new neighbor.
 - (b) Violence of any type will invite outsiders, publicity, and danger to all homes in the area, etc.
 - (c) The community's reputation depends on the behavior of the neighbors.
 - (d) Don't congregate, walk by the home, make demonstrations, etc.
 - (e) Don't listen to or pass on rumors - confirm with a Commission member.
 - (f) Stress favorable experience in other locations where move-ins have occurred.
 - (g) Emphasize enlightened self-interest.

4. Establish clear line of communication and action between the Human Relations Commission and the village government. Have one individual invested with authority to call in village forces for any needed task.
5. Designate one member of the Commission as spokesman and channel all communications, press releases, etc., through him.
6. Arrange with all communications media (press, radio, TV, etc.) not to publish any news at all. These agencies have been found to cooperate, as long as local authorities succeed in preventing incidents.

Village of Skokie releases a "Short-Range Program for Dealing with Imminent Move-In of a Non-White Family to a White Neighborhood"



NSSSP Looks to Future

Support Asked For Future Program

Louise Bennett, add. of a public meeting of the NSSSP.

"If freedom is delayed in America today, it is not because the clock is slow or it is because men who say they love freedom are timid and powerlessness and afraid."

Are you interested in working with your neighbors for a fair real estate system, that housing may be open to all regardless of race or religion? North Shore Summer Project workers are presently evaluating this summer's progress and are beginning to plan next steps toward ending discrimination in housing in our communities. The project needs your ideas, and your support. Please write, 289 Elm, Winnetka;

or phone, 596-1883, project headquarters, if you are interested in working during the next year for a more just way of life in our community.

The NSSSP wants your ideas and encouragement. Whatever plans are made for the fall and winter, their success will depend primarily upon the dedication of North Shore residents who willingly give their time and energy. As Martin Luther King said in Winnetka, "...If the friends of freedom were as passionate and anxious about their commitment to freedom's call as the enemies of freedom are to their side, we would have ended segregation and discrimination long ago."



DR. ENOCH DAVIS, CHAIRMAN of the North Shore Summer Project Steering Committee, will be among the organizers leading the NSSSP march.

North Shore Residents Plan March from Kenilworth to Evanston

The North Shore Summer Project will officially end this month with a series of activities directed toward completing the project's goal of equal housing opportunity on the North Shore. After a march and rally on August 29 to present the findings of the project to the Evanston-North Shore Board of Realtors, project leaders will meet for a weekend retreat to discuss future plans and then will present those plans to the public at an open all-day conference in mid-October.

"We call upon those North Shore residents who feel that a man's skin color or religious beliefs shouldn't keep him from being in the home of his choice to demonstrate their personal belief in this ideal by marching with us on August 29," said the Rev. Enoch G. Davis, chairman of the North Shore Summer Project, as he announced plans for the march.

Starting in Kenilworth at 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, a representative group of North Shore residents and Negro ministers will walk the five miles to the Evanston office of the Evanston-North Shore Board of Realtors, 2809 Central St., where preliminary sessions of the summer project findings will

Summer Project Replies to Realtors

The ENSBR and the NSSP

By Louis A. Pfaff

All members of the ENSBR are familiar, we are sure, with the activities of the North Shore Summer Project, and of the many people who are working on this project. This publication lacks space to give the proper editorial background to the NSSP. Its criticism of the ENSBR, of the realtors, of the banks, and all groups concerned, is not the result of the shouting, we'd like to make a few points.

Advocates of open housing feel that any person seeking life in a real estate office should be able

responsibility are a part of every buyer-realtor relationship, regardless of race, color or creed. All buyers are put through this procedure of qualification, as to sincerity of desire to purchase, type of home, type of mortgage, down payment, etc. Many NSSP people are not aware that all buyers go through this qualification routine and are unfamiliar with the mechanics of the real estate profession.

The NSSP advocates the ENSBR refusing to accept a listing unless it is open occupancy. The policy of accepting or rejecting a listing is strictly up to the individual office.

NSSP people say that if all restricted listings were reduced, homeowners would then be forced to sell with the open occupancy designation.

We do not feel we, as realtors, and as agents serving the seller, can tell our clients to do one thing or another. This is not our prerogative.

Our members of the ENSBR are doing their best to work with the various groups, both pro and con. And this is not a case of our asking a seller what his wishes are...on many occasions the inside the realtor walks into his door, the seller tells the agent whether it is to be open occupancy.

Whether the seller is right or wrong, we can only act as instructed...because we are serving the seller as agents.

"The Climate Has Changed"

By Rev. Enoch G. Davis

Mr. Davis, chairman of the Executive Committee of an official project reply to Mr. Pfaff's editorial.

We of the North Shore Summer Project were most interested in reading the editorial by Louis A. Pfaff in the August issue of the "Evanston-North Shore Realtor." We would like to answer a few points raised by Mr. Pfaff, which indicate that there are some misconceptions about the stand of the NSSP.

Since most of the volunteers working with the North Shore Summer Project are homeowners, we are familiar with the valuable services offered by North Shore realtors. We feel that establishing a buyer's price range is an important service of the realtor.

We ask only that this and other services be made available as an equal basis to all homeowners, regardless of race, religion or national origin.

We agree wholeheartedly that "the realtor is in the right mind" would take a person with a \$7,500 income to a \$150,000 property. We have never asked realtors to do this. We are asking North Shore realtors to make appointments for minority-group homeowners to see all houses that are open to their families' needs and to their families' abilities.



LOUIS PFAFF ADDRESSES THE North Shore Residents' conference along side of the Rev. Enoch Davis, NSSP head.

to evaluate all listing sheets, and thereafter to take to see any house which appeals.

But this fails to take into account the fact that the



North Shore project demonstrators stand silently at the corner of Oakton and Lincoln in downtown Skokie.

1965: North Shore Summer Project (NSSSP) & Chicago Freedom Movement

NSSP conducts research, outreach, vigils, and march
MLK & team start fight for fair housing based in Chicago

"I have seen many demonstrations in the south but I have never seen anything so hostile and so hateful as I've seen here today." - Martin Luther King, Jr. remarking on Aug. 5, 1966 march in Chicago

The Skokie Plan, 1965-1966

Emphasized voluntary fair housing and community education

Village concluded efforts were valuable but ultimately ineffective at promoting fair housing.

Illinois Fair Housing Bill based off the Skokie Plan initially

Skokie HRC Co-Chair Don Perille advocated for changes based off Skokie's results

I would like to be able to report that the Skokie Plan has been unequivocally successful, but I cannot. We believe that it has had great value in making fair housing official village policy and as the basis for education in the continuing discussion on the need for fair housing generated by the publication and mailing to every homeowner in Skokie, this booklet, "Your Home And Skokie's Future." But to say that our plan has opened up our village or that we have fair housing is simply not true.

Having completed the first year of our experiment in voluntary fair housing, we would recommend the educational phase of the plan to all Illinois communities. Our records indicate an unmistakable trend in Skokie homeowner attitudes toward selling on an open basis or at least away from selling on a discriminatory basis. Regrettably, during this same period of changing homeowner attitudes, not one home in Skokie was sold to a Negro by a Realtor.

In view of this experience, the Commission believes that while voluntary plans have educational value, they cannot, by themselves, bring about open housing. They require the support of law, on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Skokie Human Relations Commission, by unanimous vote, recommends enactment of a comprehensive state fair housing law with enforcement provisions. We feel that Senate Bill 155 contains the features such a law should embody.

Your Home and Skokie's Future

Since the first Negro family moved into Skokie in 1961, our village has set an example of moral leadership in accepting the principle of equal housing opportunity for all. This attitude was reaffirmed by adoption of the following resolution on July 12, 1965, by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Village of Skokie is a community which proudly proclaims as its citizens members of all races, creeds and national origin; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Skokie has been in the forefront of suburban communities seeking effective solution to problems in the field of racial and minority relations by peaceful and lawful means;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Skokie that we believe it is morally wrong to deny equal housing opportunity when based on race, creed, color or national origin whether by express or tacit agreement, silence or custom.

WE welcome to our Village of Skokie and as our next door neighbors all people, irrespective of their race, creed, color or national origin.

A Message from
Skokie Human
Relations Commission

Fair Housing Passed

1967

Skokie Passes Fair Housing Ordinance

Takes effect Jan. 1, 1968

Includes complaint and resolution process

1968

Illinois Passes Fair Housing Bill

Skokie HRC Co-Chair Don Perille assists with its passing

1968

Federal Fair Housing Act Signed

Outlaws redlining and racial covenants, but lacked enforcement

Amendments passed in 1974, 1988 to expand protections and enforcement

RULES GOVERNING
PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE
BEFORE THE
SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
RELATING TO

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CERTAIN PRACTICES OF DISCRIMINATION
IN THE SALE, LEASE, RENTAL OR FINANCING OF HOUSING ACCOMMODA-
TIONS BECAUSE OF RACE, RELIGION, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR
ANCESTRY BY REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND REAL ESTATE SALESMEN -
VO #67-10-G-254 (AS AMENDED BY VO #68-12-G-354)

AND

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CERTAIN PRACTICES OF DISCRIMINATION
IN THE SALE, RENTAL, LEASE OR FINANCING OF HOUSING ACCOMMODA-
TIONS BECAUSE OF RACE, RELIGION, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR
ANCESTRY BY OWNERS AND OTHER PERSONS - VO #68-12-G-353.

Suburban open housing . . .

By DON KAZAK
Lerner Newspapers
Suburban Bureau

EVERY MORNING, the Skokie Swift is filled with office workers and executives heading south to the Loop for another day of work. White people.

The Swift trains which return north to Dempster during the same rush hour return with black people—the women who do the housework for white Skokians.

IT'S A FACT OF LIFE that many white people and few black people live in Skokie. The same is true for Niles and Des Plaines and Morton Grove and Lincolnwood.

A few blacks work in the factories, a few black executives live in Skokie, and a bevy of black cleaning women work in white homes. Otherwise, almost everyone you'll see walking a Skokie street is white.

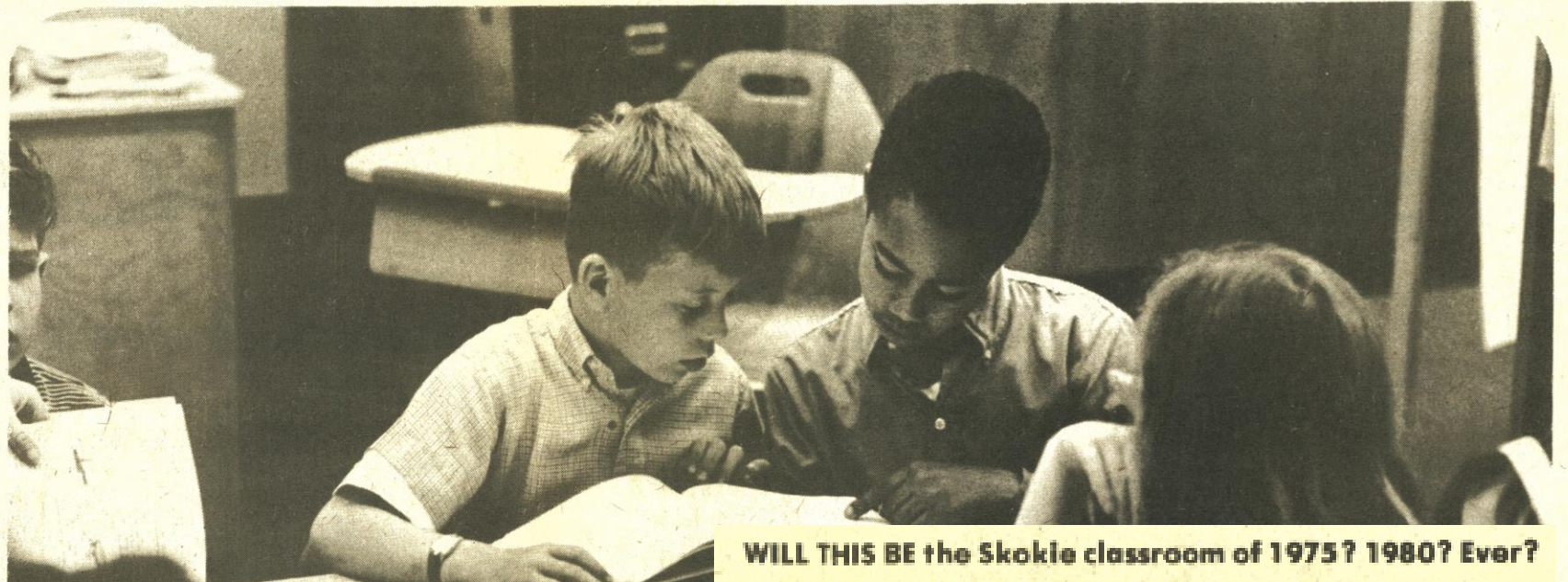
While this is a fact of life, it is not an accident. The separatism of America is white separatism, not by accident but by institutional design. That's the way white people have wanted it and have built and maintained it.

How? Through the economic and social differences which distinguish black and white in America, and through housing, transportation and employment patterns.

There is no place for a black family making \$4,000 a year to live in Skokie. Or a white family with that income. But the families with executives who earn \$15,000 and \$20,000 a year tend to be white—because of unequal education and unequal opportunity.

The housing situation, in general, contributes to this. (There are fewer and fewer housing agencies

*'We shall overcome someday'
(But let's not rush things)*



WILL THIS BE the Skokie classroom of 1975? 1980? Ever?

Skokie Life,
March 18, 1971

"It's a fact of life that many white people and few black people live in Skokie. ... It is not an accident. The separatism of America is white separatism, not by accident but by institutional design. That's the way white people have wanted it and have built and maintained it."

Skokie Life,

March 18, 1971

Goldmeier also added that "not all black people who attempt to move into the community are discriminated against."

BUT NOT ALL PEOPLE who aren't discriminated against have an easy time. Skokie's second black family bought a house some years ago on the same block with the village's first black family.

Community leaders panicked, fearing "a black ghetto" and persuaded the family—after long and trying negotiations—to sell the house and accept another one of equal value elsewhere in the village.

Some Skokians, doubtlessly, are proud of the episode.

Goldmeier said the black man who bought the house works in a "major, influential industry" and is "a leader in his field," yet was subjected to "tricks and persuasion" which kept him from living in the home of his free choice.

If a black man has enough money to buy a home in Skokie, the fair housing law will protect him in his efforts. Because not many blacks have enough money, the fair housing law—with its emphasis on compliance—is not designed to integrate the village, only to prevent overt discrimination.

INTEGRATION IS another matter.

"White Americans never fully realize what the Negro can never fully forget, that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it. ... We are all implicated in the poverty and racism of America. The problem isn't somewhere else, it is here."

FROM THE STRENGTH AND persistence of institutional racism in the United States—housing patterns, unequal education, unequal employment opportunity—it is obvious that an integrated society is not desired by white America, although politicians pay lipservice to the ideal.

"Looking at America's past," said Goldmeier, "it's safe to say that white people in America have never wanted integration.

"It's been white people, right down the line, who instituted slavery, who instituted Jim Crow laws, who eventually instituted de facto segregation throughout the country."

The Kerner Commission report was "astounding" because of the people who wrote it, Goldmeier said. These were "conservative, traditional" men who came to the condemning conclusion:

"White Americans never fully realize what the Negro can never fully forget, that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

SUBSTITUTE "SKOKIE" for "white society" and "the West Side" for "the ghetto," to realize what that statement should mean to suburbia.

We are all implicated in the poverty and racism of America. The problem isn't somewhere else, it is here.

Recommended Reading: Local

Skokie

Local Suburbs

Chicago



[Outsider in the Promised Land: Black Family in Jewish Community](#)

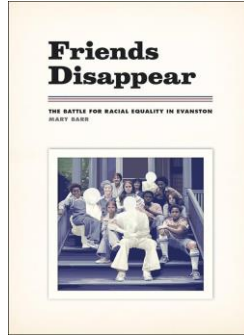
Gwen Fortune

[Skokie Fair Housing Online Exhibit](#)
Skokie Public Library



[Friends Disappear: The Battle for Racial Equality in Evanston](#)

Mary Barr

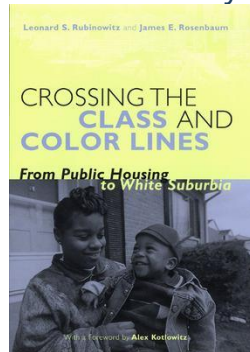
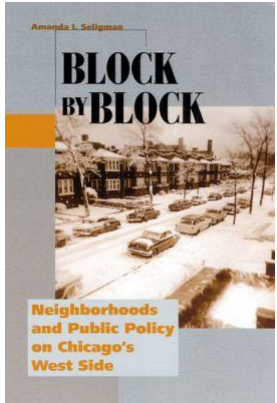


[The Chicago Freedom Movement](#)

Mary Lou Finley,
Bernard LaFayette Jr., James R. Ralph



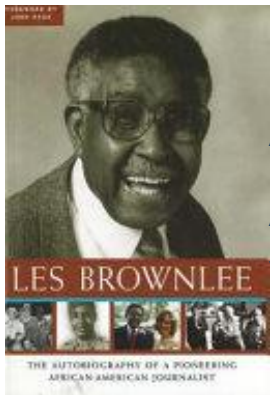
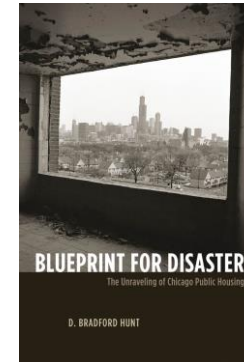
[Block by Block: Neighborhoods and Public Policy on Chicago's West Side](#)
Amanda I. Seligman



[Crossing the Class and Color Lines: From Public Housing to White Suburbia](#)

Leonard Rubinowitz
and James Rosenbaum

[Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing](#)
D. Bradford Hunt



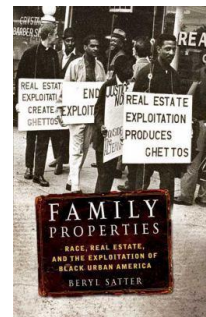
[Les Brownlee: The Autobiography of a Pioneering African-American Journalist](#)

Les Brownlee



["50 Years Later, Fair Housing Movement on North Shore Marches On"](#)

WTTW



[Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America](#)
Beryl Satter

["Forgetting How to Hate: The Evolution of White Responses to Integration in Chicago, 1946-1987"](#)

(dissertation)
Chris Ramsey



Recommended Reading: National

Title	Author/Editor
The Color of Law	Richard Rothstein
Arbitrary Lines: How Zoning Broke the American City and How to Fix It	M. Nolan Gray
The Fight for Fair Housing	Gregory Squires
When Affirmative Action Was White	Ira Katznelson
The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration	Isabel Wilkerson
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent	Isabel Wilkerson
Cold War, Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy	Mary Dudziak
Places of Their Own: African American Suburbanization in the 20th Century	Andrew Wiese
Not in My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped a Great American City	Antero Pietila
Surrogate Suburbs	Todd M. Michney
Fragile Rights Within Cities: Government, Housing, and Fairness	John Goering
Housing Segregation in Suburban America since 1960	Charles M. Lamb
Moving Toward Integration: The Past and Future of Fair Housing	Richard Sander et al.
Perspectives on Fair Housing	Vincent Reina et al.
Race for Profit	Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor
Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities	Jessica Trounstine
Unfair Housing: How National Policy Shapes Community Action	Mara S. Sidney

