

A WHITE HISTORIAN CONFRONTS RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION



Detroit, opposite Sojourner Truth Homes, 1942. Photographer: Arthur S. Siegel. Library of Congress.

Although neighborhood segregation is now so common in the United States that it almost seems natural, black and white people lived in close proximity in early American cities.

This illustrated talk explores how separate neighborhoods developed. Racial segregation was deliberately organized by the actors in the real estate system: cities through zoning; the Federal government through the FHA, the GI Bill, and the 1949 Housing Act; developers through restrictive covenants; realtors through blockbusting; and banks, chambers of commerce, landlords, and public housing administrators. Segregation was enforced by violence and terror.

Historian Susan Strasser seeks to serve people grappling with contemporary issues of race and racism. This is the fourth of a series of illustrated talks, *A White Historian Reads Black History*.

“Susan Strasser does her homework on graphics and narrative both, with an extensive bibliography to support each of her lectures. Her four intense and intensive presentations have been among the most well-attended of our congregation’s education events. And when was the last time you have heard a Caucasian confront our nefarious legacy of residential segregation—my favorite presentation of her four—as well as the horrors of lynching?”— Rev. Chuck Booker, Bethesda Presbyterian Church

A WHITE HISTORIAN READS BLACK HISTORY

Susan Strasser is an award-winning historian and a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. She has been praised by the *New Yorker* for “retrieving what history discards: the taken-for-granted minutiae of everyday life.” Her books include *Never Done: A History of American Housework*, *Satisfaction Guaranteed: The Making of the American Mass Market*, and *Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash*. Strasser is Richards Professor Emerita of American History at the University of Delaware.

She is available to lecture about two current projects: ***A White Historian Reads Black History***, a series of talks for community and religious groups; and ***Snake Oil Revisited***, an investigation of the history of medicinal plants in American culture.



TO SPONSOR THE SERIES OR HOST A SINGLE TALK CONTACT **[SUSAN \[AT\] SUSANSTRASSER.NET](mailto:SUSAN@SUSANSTRASSER.NET)**

A WHITE HISTORIAN CONFRONTS AMERICAN SLAVERY

A WHITE HISTORIAN CONFRONTS LYNCHING

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