



# Revisiting the Underground Railroad Colson Whitehead

Author of the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Underground Railroad*, a 2016 National Book Award-winning novel  
MacArthur Fellow, Guggenheim Fellow, and a Pulitzer Prize finalist

**Event #1: Monday, February 27, 2017, 7:00 PM**  
Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston

**Event #2: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 12:00 PM**  
Loyola University Chicago School of Law, 25 E. Pearson St., Chicago  
*Space is limited at the Loyola event. Please RSVP to [www.bit.ly/FANColsonWhitehead](http://www.bit.ly/FANColsonWhitehead)*

**Event #3: Tuesday, February 28, 2017, 7:00 PM**  
Francis W. Parker School, Heller Auditorium, 2233 N. Clark St., Chicago

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,  
in partnership with the Evanston Public Library, Evanston Township High School D202,  
Francis W. Parker School, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, New Trier High School D203,  
North Shore Country Day School, Roycemore School, and Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.).  
All events are free and open to the public; none of the events will be videotaped. Suitable for ages 10+.

Info: [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: COLSON WHITEHEAD – 3 EVENTS**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

**EVENT #1:** Monday, February 27, 2017, Revisiting the Underground Railroad, 7:00 PM, Evanston Township High School Auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, 60201. Just this past week, Colson Whitehead was named a recipient of this year’s **Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction** for his powerful novel *The Underground Railroad*. This huge bestseller, launched into the stratosphere by **Oprah’s Book Club 2.0** last August, was awarded the 2016 **National Book Award** for fiction in November, and is short-listed for the new \$75,000 PEN America award. Perhaps most symbolic, *The Underground Railroad* was the last novel former **President Barack Obama** read while in office.

*The Underground Railroad* tells the story of Cora, a 15-year-old slave on a Georgia plantation who escapes to the North via an actual underground railroad, not a metaphorical one. With each stopover and resettlement, Cora’s life is imperiled, the violence and terror manifesting in myriad ways, the traumas accumulating and expanding. In her *New York Times* review of *The Underground Railroad*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning literary critic **Michiko Kakutani** writes, “The harrowing tale he (Whitehead) tells here is the back story to the injustices African-Americans and immigrants continue to suffer today, but the back story only in the sense, as Faulkner put it, that ‘the past is never dead. It’s not even past’... [H]e memorializes the yearning for freedom that spurs one generation after another to persevere in the search for justice – despite threats and intimidation, despite reversals and efforts to turn back the clock. He has told a story essential to our understanding of the American past and the American present.”

Mr. Whitehead is a 1991 graduate of **Harvard University**. His non-fiction, essays, and reviews have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *Harper’s*. He has taught at several universities, including **Princeton University**, **New York University**, and **Columbia University**. Mr. Whitehead is a MacArthur Fellow, Guggenheim Fellow, and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

**EVENT #2:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017, Revisiting the Underground Railroad, 12:00 PM, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Corboy Center, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Ceremonial Courtroom, 25 E. Pearson St., Chicago, 60611. **NOTE: Space is limited for the LUC event; please RSVP to [www.bit.ly/FANColsonWhitehead](http://www.bit.ly/FANColsonWhitehead)**

**EVENT #3:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017, Revisiting the Underground Railroad, 7:00 PM, Francis W. Parker School, Heller Auditorium, 2233 N. Clark St., Chicago, 60614.

Sponsored by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with the **Evanston Public Library**, **Evanston Township High School D202**, **Francis W. Parker School**, **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, **New Trier High School D203**, **North Shore Country Day School**, **Roycemore School**, and **Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)**. FAN is grateful for the support of its 2016-17 annual sponsors **Compass Health Center**, **Evanston Township High School D202**, **New Trier High School D203**, the **Martin & Mary L. Boyer Foundation**, **Magnetar Capital**, the **Mammel Foundation**, and **Tina & Byron Trott**; our strategic partners **Acclaim Media**, the **Butler Family Foundation**, **Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University**, **Curt’s Café**, **Erikson Institute**, **Evanston/Skokie D65**, the **Finnegan Family Foundation**, **Hackstudio**, **Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, the **Master of Science in Education Program at the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University**, the **McGaw YMCA**, **National Alliance on Mental Illness – Cook County North Suburban**, **New Trier Parents’ Association**, **North Shore Community Bank**, **Northern Suburban Special Education District (NSSED)**, **Northwestern University**, **ReDefined Fitness**, **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**, **The Family Institute at Northwestern University**, **Victories**, and **Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)**; and our in-kind sponsors **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** and **Turing Group**.

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