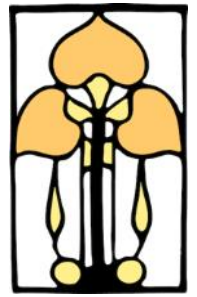


# FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

## THE HERALD

Volume XIII, Number 1

Spring 2019



### ARCHITECT HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW AT 150 *by William Tyre*

Friends, in partnership with Glessner House, will host a half-day symposium on May 11, 2019 to honor the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, who designed our National Historic Landmark designated sanctuary in 1900 following a devastating fire. (See page 4, for more information). In this issue, we look back at Shaw's life and several commissions he received in the South Loop which exhibit the breadth of his abilities.

Howard Van Doren Shaw was born on May 7, 1869 to Theodore and Sarah (Van Doren) Shaw. Theodore was a successful dry goods merchant and a descendant of an early Quaker settler who came to America with William Penn. Sarah was a talented painter and a descendant of a prominent Dutch family that included the first mayor of Brooklyn, New York. Shortly after Shaw's death, fellow architect Alfred Granger noted that Shaw had inherited his father's "strength of character and quiet firmness" while receiving "his artistic taste, his love for color and fantasy" from his mother.

Shaw's parents married in 1865 and started attending Second Presbyterian Church. They established their home at 66 Calumet Avenue (later 2124 S. Calumet). By the time Howard was a young boy, the house sat in the midst of the most exclusive residential district in the city. He received a privileged upbringing, attended the exclusive Harvard School for Boys at 2101 S. Indiana



Ave., and joined Second Presbyterian by profession of faith in 1885. Shaw earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale in 1890 and that fall, entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he completed the rigorous two-year architecture program in just one year.

He returned to Chicago in 1891 and quickly obtained an apprenticeship in the prominent firm of Jenney & Mundie, an outstanding training ground that had produced architects including Daniel Burnham and Louis Sullivan. The office was located in the Home Insurance Buildings, Jenney's most prominent building widely regarded as the first true skyscraper. In the summer of 1892, Shaw headed off to Europe for an extended journey studying and sketching architecture. While in Spain, he met and traveled with James Renwick Jr., the architect of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, and Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Returning to Chicago in early 1893, he rejoined the firm of Jenney & Mundie, and in April, married Frances Wells in a ceremony at First Presbyterian Church. By early 1894, Shaw established his own practice, setting up his office on the top floor of his family home on Calumet Avenue. He hired a draftsman, Robert G. Work, and quickly established a reputation for designing distinctive residences in a variety of architectural styles.

In 1897, Shaw received his first large commission through his Yale classmate Thomas E. Donnelley. The building at 731 S. Plymouth Court housed the Lakeside Press, later R. R. Donnelley & Sons. The vaulted fireproof structure with reinforced concrete floors showed Shaw's ability to design a building that was both beautiful and highly functional.

That same year, he received his first commission from Second Presbyterian Church, to design the Crerar Sunday School Chapel at 5831 S. Indiana Ave. (see *The Herald*, Spring 2016). The building, designed and built at the same time as Shaw's summer house, Ragdale, in Lake Forest, features a similar façade with twin gables sheathed in a smooth stucco finish. The Chapel and Ragdale both exhibit Shaw's early mastery of interpreting the English Arts & Crafts style.

The first of three houses Shaw designed in the neighborhood stood at 1900 S. Calumet Ave. and was commissioned by Charles Starkweather in 1899. Although

based on classic Georgian design, interesting features such as the Palladian window cut into the pediment over the main entrance show Shaw's interest in, and mastery of, introducing his personal touch into each commission he received.

He designed two additional houses in 1903. The first was built for John B. Drake, Jr. and stood at 2106 S. Calumet Ave., just a couple of doors north of his family home. For the Drake house, Shaw turned to the Tudor style creating a pleasing asymmetrical brick façade, anchored by a central recessed entryway and a wrap-around porch.

The second house designed that year was more controversial. Built for his Yale classmate Ralph Martin Shaw (no relation) at 2632 S. Prairie Ave., the narrow brick rowhouse was stylistically different from its



neighbors, but more importantly, addressed the need for housing an automobile. The ground floor was centered by the entrance to the "motor row" or garage that

featured a large turntable set into the floor so that the auto could be turned around when it was time to exit. The ground level was visually cut off from the rest of the house by a projecting limestone lintel above which was set a large grouping of three windows, denoting the main living spaces on the second level. Although praised by architects, Shaw's handwritten note in a scrapbook read "very avant-garde and criticized."

Shaw's later commissions in the neighborhood reflect its rapid transformation from residential to commercial in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1907, he designed a printing plant for the publishers, Ginn & Co.



Built of reinforced concrete in the Classical Revival style, the most notable feature was a series of three-story brick columns which lent a grand effect to the façade. The building was the center of two preservation battles at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; the reconstructed façade survives at 2203 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

In 1911, Shaw received another commission from the Donnelley company, which had outgrown its Lakeside Press building on Plymouth Court. That year, the company acquired all of the lots on the east side of the 2100 block of Calumet Ave., directly across the street from the house in which Shaw's widowed mother was still living. Considered one of the finest examples of "Industrial Gothic," the building's design reflects Shaw's directive to design the structure "so that it will not be beautiful only today, but one hundred years from now. We want to build it so people will say that it is art, intelligence and beauty

rather than a flashy display of money." Brick and limestone piers are clearly articulated as buttresses with recessed spandrels and large expanses of glass in between. Ornament includes rich stone carving and terra cotta plaques depicting historic printers' marks. It was built in four phases, the last completed after Shaw's death, but true to his original design.

Shaw's final commission in the neighborhood was for the Nyberg Automobile Works at 2435-37 S. Michigan Avenue, reflecting the growth of "Motor Row" along that street. Completed in 1912, the building featured huge plate glass windows at ground level to showcase the automobiles, with a variety of Shaw ornament enlivening the façade above.

Although Shaw never designed another building in the neighborhood, he remained active, designing everything from houses to industrial buildings, and from a planned company town (Marktown) to what is regarded as the first modern shopping mall (Market Square in Lake Forest). He died on May 6, 1926, one day before his 57<sup>th</sup> birthday while being treated for pernicious anemia in Baltimore, having been awarded the prestigious gold medal from the American Institute of Architects the day before his death.

His wife later wrote, "It was said about William Morris, 'You can not lose a man like that by his own death, only by your own.' I know his family feels this to be true of Howard Shaw." He was buried at Graceland Cemetery, the family plot denoted by a distinctive marker of his own design.

## GREAT NEWS!

Check out our new website:  
[historicsecondchurch.org](http://historicsecondchurch.org)

***Friends of Historic Second Church gratefully acknowledges the following memberships, donations, and contributions from September 27, 2018-March 15, 2019.***

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William Tyre's friend  
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## DESTINCTIVE DESTINATIONS

Friends of Historic Second Church is proud to announce that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Second Presbyterian Church as one of its Distinctive Destinations. The nearly 200 sites that carry this honored designation represent diverse historic sites across the country illustrating the breadth and depth of the American story. Check us out at [savingplaces.org/distinctive-destinations](http://savingplaces.org/distinctive-destinations).

## FRIENDS CELEBRATES THE ROARING 20S

The Roaring Twenties were marked by a feeling of novelty and a break with traditions. New technologies brought modernity through automobiles, motion pictures and electrical appliances. Art, architecture and music flourished.



Wednesday June 19, 2019  
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm Docent Tours  
6:00 pm - "**Roaring 20s**"  
presentation by Kathleen Skolnik,  
Art and Architecture Historian  
Reception to follow

## SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF A NARTHEX LUNETTE MURAL



Do you remember walking through the front doors of the church and looking up to see the very dark and dingy murals on either side of the narthex? Did you think to yourself, "I'd love to see those murals cleaned up?" Now is your chance to make that happen.

Friends is seeking the funds to restore one of the narthex lunette murals in 2019. The restoration will involve consolidation of the paint to the plaster, cleaning and the correction of any damage or loss. The cost of the work is \$9,800.

Imagine the difference your donation will make in the appearance of this mural. Please give today. Your donation can be made on Friends' website: [www.historicsecondchurch.org/donate/murals](http://www.historicsecondchurch.org/donate/murals). Thank you.





## JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW

### HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW SYMPOSIUM



A symposium will celebrate the life and work of architect Howard Van Doren Shaw on the 150th anniversary of his birth. This symposium brings together five scholars who will speak on various aspects of Shaw's

notable career. Known in his day as the most radical of the conservatives, and the most conservative of the radicals, Shaw's style combined a variety of influences in new and innovative ways that make his buildings, ranging from country houses to manufacturing plants, distinctive and easily recognizable.

**Stuart Cohen, author of *Inventing the New American House: Howard Van Doren Shaw, Architect*, is the keynote speaker.**

#### ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Art Miller, retired archivist and librarian of special collections, Lake Forest College - Market Square and Shaw's commercial work

Anne Sullivan, preservation architect - Ragdale

Nate Lielasus, architect - Marktown

William Tyre, Curator, Glessner House - Shaw's personal life, and work in the South Loop

Susan Baldwin Burian, architectural historian, will lead a panel discussion with the speakers to discuss Shaw's impact and relevancy today. Guided tours of Shaw's National Historic Landmark designated sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church will be offered at the conclusion of the symposium.

This symposium is generously funded by The Donnelley Foundation and the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation

Saturday May 11, 2019

9:00 am to 1:00 pm (registration and breakfast at 8:30am)

Second Presbyterian Church

1936 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

\$25.00 per person or

\$20 per person for members of Glessner House and Friends of Historic Second Church

Purchase tickets online at [www.glessnerhouse.org](http://www.glessnerhouse.org)  
(Pre-registration required)

### MARKTOWN WALKING TOUR



Nate Lielasus will lead a walking tour of the community of Marktown, a former industrial town designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1917 to house workers of the Indiana Harbor Works of the Mark Manufacturing Company. Marktown represents a rare example of town planning by Shaw. The tour will focus on the history of the community; the original, only partially realized master plan; building typologies; and repeated design elements throughout the community. With several of Marktown's buildings already demolished, and the increasing threat of demolition of additional structures by the BP Whiting Refinery, this is a valuable opportunity to see one of Shaw's most significant late-career projects.

Saturday, September 7th

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Meeting place: To be determined

\$20 per person/ \$18 for members

Purchase tickets at: [historicsecondchurch.org](http://historicsecondchurch.org)

### NEAR NORTH SIDE WALKING TOUR

Join architect Nate Lielasus on a walking tour of Chicago's Gold Coast to explore the contributions of Howard Van Doren Shaw, and his contemporaries, to the evolution of the neighborhood. The Near North Side developed as a wealthy enclave after the Great Chicago Fire when Potter and Bertha Palmer built their famous Castle-inspired mansion on Lake Shore Drive. Following the Palmers, other wealthy Chicagoans built their homes in the district, many relocating from the community around Second Presbyterian Church and Prairie Avenue. On this tour, we will explore these mansions and luxury apartments designed by Shaw and others and discuss the rise of the area to one of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the United States.

Saturday, September 21, 2019

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Meeting place: To be determined

\$20 per person/ \$18 for members

Purchase tickets at: [historicsecondchurch.org](http://historicsecondchurch.org)

**BECOME A MEMBER**

2018 was an exciting year in the history of Friends of Historic Second Church with the return of the completely restored 1903 Tiffany Peace window. It was also a standout year because YOU joined Friends in record numbers-- a sign of your support for the work we are doing to restore the great art and architecture of Chicago's only National Historic Landmark church. We also saw far greater numbers of participants at our programs and events. Now we are poised to make 2019 an even more outstanding year. We eagerly anticipate the May 11 Shaw Symposium, celebrating the 150th birthday of Howard Van Doren Shaw, and the June 19 celebration of Chicago history with a fun look at the Roaring Twenties. More preservation projects are in the works. You won't want to miss a thing. Join now because you believe in preservation as a civic duty or join because you enjoy the events and love seeing restoration come to life. But don't miss out on your chance to be a vital part of living history – the restoration of Historic Second Church.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

All members receive the newsletter *The Herald* and are recognized as donors in the newsletter.

**Tiffany Circle:** \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

*Benefits include:* Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise.

**Arts & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

*Benefits include:* Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise, and invitations to special members-only tours and programs.

I/we wish to become a member of Friends of Historic Second Church or renew a current membership.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for membership at the following level:

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\_\_\_\_ **Arts & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No You may acknowledge my contribution in Friends' publications.

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.

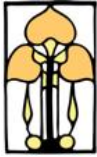
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No I am interested in volunteering for Friends' activities.

If you wish to discuss sponsoring a restoration project, contact Friends of Historic Second Church at 1-800-657-0687.

Please return completed form with check made payable to:

Friends of Historic Second Church 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616.

Or renew online at [www.historicsecondchurch.org](http://www.historicsecondchurch.org).



**FRIENDS of  
HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH**

1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 1-800-657-0687

E-mail: [historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.historicsecondchurch.org](http://www.historicsecondchurch.org)

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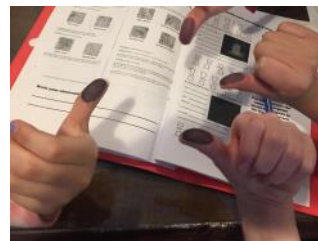
Contributors: Ann Belletire, Heather Kendall,  
Nate Lielasus, Linda Miller, and William Tyre.

**2019 DOCENT TRAINING**

A wonderful way to learn about the world-class art and architecture of Second Presbyterian Church is to join the upcoming Docent Training Class of 2019. Trainees who certify will become official docents for Friends of Historic Second Church, sharing their love of history, art and architecture with guests from around the world or down the street. Training sessions will occur at 6:30 pm on Thursdays, May 9, 16 and 23; and on Saturday, June 8 from 9:00 am – noon. A partial list of topics to be examined includes: The Arts and Crafts movement; architects James Renwick, Jr. and Howard Van Doren Shaw; Gothic Revival architecture; artists Frederic Clay Bartlett and Louis Comfort Tiffany; the church's stained glass windows (both American and English); preservation philosophy and techniques; and a review of completed restoration projects.

Please visit [www.historicsecondfriends.org](http://www.historicsecondfriends.org) under Announcements on the Home Page and click the link to Docent Training to complete the application form on line.

**NEW SCOUT BADGE PROGRAMS ARRIVING**



We are proud to announce our new scout badge program. We are offering the Girl Scout Detective Badge for Junior scouts. All

requirements of the badge are part of the program. The scouts will investigate who or what started the 1900 March fire by following clues, using primary source materials, talking to witnesses, and determining whether the limestone started the fire. Will they solve who or what was the culprit? To find out sign up your troop at: <https://www.historicsecondchurch.org/scoutbadgeprograms>.

**Mission Statement**

*The mission of Friends of Historic Second Church is to preserve and restore the art and architecture of Chicago's Landmark Second Presbyterian Church, educate a worldwide audience about its historical and cultural significance, and share those resources with the community.*

*Friends of Historic Second Church is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.*