

## **BONUS EPISODE: MINNEAPOLIS BALDIES & ARA PART TWO**

It Did Happen Here returns to the Midwest for deeper conversations with veterans of the Minneapolis Baldies and Skinheads of Chicago (SHOC) about what it means to be a Black, Brown or Indigenous person in a predominantly white movement, a woman in a male-dominated movement, how we direct our anti-racism as middle-aged activists, with deep discussion on how experiences with a violent youth have shaped political and personal philosophies.

Interviews with Lorraine, Gator, Malachi/Mickey, Marty, Gator, Mobonix/Mo.

**Rizzoli Bookstore** opened in 1964 in Manhattan, selling Italian books in an elegant building on West 57th. They opened a Chicago branch at 835 Watertower Place in 1976 which for 25 years sold illustrated books and European literature published in English, French, Italian and Spanish. The Milan based company closed all but its flagship Manhattan store in 2001.

**Water Tower Place** is a 74-story high rise that was built in 1974 as a way to revitalize Chicago's downtown after the white flight of the 60s. The first 8 stories housed a vertical mall intended to cultivate an atmosphere of luxury, with chandeliers, marble floors and a glass elevator. The anchor stores were the upscale Marshall Fields and Lord & Taylor departments store. The building also contained luxury condos looking over Lake Michigan and the 'Magnificent Mile'—the glittering lakeshore side of the Loop—as well as a Ritz Carlton Hotel. As of March 9, 2021, the city's investment in the mall's elevated reputation continues; Chicago City Treasurer Maria Pappas spoke to WGN news, coming out against the discount chain store Target's inquiry about moving into Water Tower Place when Macy's closes its downtown Chicago location.

**Columbia College** [was founded by](#) Mary A. Blood and Ida Morey Riley in 1890 as the Columbia School of Oratory, an elocution school, training people for careers in lecturing from its location at 600 South Michigan Avenue, in the heart of the Chicago Loop. Named after the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago to commemorate the 400th anniversary of colonizer/enslaver/genocidal merchant Christopher Columbus, the college name was changed shortly after the founding to The Columbia College of Expression. The school expanded in the 1930s to include radio broadcasting and the dramatic arts. In the 1940s, Columbia provided educational, occupational, and psychological assistance for returning World War II veterans and incorporated advertising and television programs into the growing curricula. The college continued to grow and adapt to the needs of an urban academic population, adopting in the 1960s a progressive social agenda with a liberal arts and media education; its focus remains on providing students with diverse means of expression.

**The Bridge** The Bridge for Youth is a Minneapolis nonprofit organization founded in 1970 by activists Sister Rita Steinhagen and Sister Marlene Barghini to provide refuge for vulnerable homeless and runaway young people in the Twin Cities. During the time to which Lorraine refers, the Bridge maintained 12 emergency shelter beds as well as care plans to help young people find a place to stabilize, survive and thrive into adulthood. Minneapolis's homeless youth population, [according to The Bridge For Youth website](#), is around 6,000 any given night, which accounts for almost half of the total homeless population in the city and more than a third of the youth homeless population statewide. The organization operates a 24-hour crisis line, empowerment support groups and in 2017 opened 'Rita's House' to provide transitional housing for kids who age out of services at 17 or 18. In 2019 the Bridge For Youth opened 'Marlene's House' to provide housing for pregnant and parenting youth. Shortly after the police murder of Mr. George Floyd, the Bridge For Youth formed a racial justice cohort to "...to embark on a soul searching journey to understand where and how we need

to improve upon fulfillment of our mission and the ways we support and work with youth, most of whom are Black and Indigenous People of Color.”

**The Syndicate** was the name for the regionally affiliated groups of Anti-Racist Action punks and skinheads. They formed in January, 1989 when representatives from nine Midwestern cities gathered in Minneapolis. In a [May 1989 newspaper article](#) journalist Linnet Myers writes: “The formation of their group began when “we came Uptown and we seen five dudes from Brew City (Milwaukee) up here and we started talking,” explained a Minneapolis skinhead named Gator.”

**George Floyd** [was a musician, athlete, friend, and father](#), who worked as a bouncer at a Minneapolis restaurant with deep roots in [the Houston hip-hop scene](#) and youth football star who was executed by Minneapolis police on May 25, 2020. The murder, captured on video, circulated around the world and sparked the largest global uprising in recorded history, in the name of Black Lives Matter.

**SkinHeads of Chicago (SHOC)** was a Chicago-based Black skinhead crew affiliated with the Syndicate and ARA. In season 3 of its [Motive podcast](#), WBEZ looks at the rise of skinheads in Chicago, with an emphasis on racist skinheads. Episode 2: ‘Romantic Violence,’ features Corky from It Did Happen Here. Producer and episode host Odette Yousef states at minute 13:35 “Chicago’s strong Black Skinheads were one reason the scene was so inclusive in the beginning.” Later in the episode, Yousef briefly mentions the rise of SkinHeads Of Chicago; at 31:34 SHOC founder Corky says, “While we agreed that Nazis are the enemy, we fought amongst ourselves...For all my idealism, when you really come down to it, SHOC was just another street gang.”

**Om** In the sacred texts contained in the Upanishads, [om](#) is described as the primordial sound from which all other sounds and creation emerge. Many describe it as the ‘sound of the universe.’

**Ahmaud Arbery** [was a 25-year old aspiring electrician](#) and former high school football star who was fatally shot February 23, 2020 by white men who also hit him with their car while Mr. Arbery was jogging through the Satilla Shores neighborhood near Brunswick in Glynn County, Georgia.

**Marcus Garvey** was a prominent Black orator, organizer and publisher of the newspaper The Negro World which at its peak circulation had 200,000 subscribers and published in three languages on four continents. Mr. Garvey was born Marcus Mosiah Garvey in 1887 in Kingston, Jamaica. After reading Booker T. Washington's [Up From Slavery](#), Mr. Garvey saw economic separation and social segregation as a path to liberation for Black people. He founded the [Universal Negro Improvement Association](#) (UNIA) in 1914 and in 1917 moved to Harlem, New York where he particularly influenced Black southerners then emigrating to the north as part of the [Great Migration](#). His message of self-reliance and political equality based on self-determinism became known as 'Garveyism'. His dream was to return, along with fellow members of the African Diaspora, to the African shores from which his ancestors had been stolen. Garvey fell from popularity after news of high-profile meetings with Ku Klux Klan leader Edward Young Clarke in June of 1922 reached the greater Black civil rights community. [According to academic historian Malik Simba](#), Mr. Garvey was naive in thinking that he could find common ground with the white supremacists in their shared goals of 'racial purity.' Various organizations turned against him. The U.S. Justice Department, threatened by Mr. Garvey's strident anti-colonialist message, hired its first Black agent to infiltrate UNIA in an early COINTELPRO-style move, and eventually convicted the Pan-Africanist of mail fraud in 1923. He was sentenced to five years in prison, which President Coolidge commuted to deportation. Marcus Garvey spent the rest of his life attempting to recover his political power and died in London, England in 1940.

**Pan-Africanism** [Pan-Africanist ideals](#) emerged in the late nineteenth century in response to European colonization and exploitation of the African continent. Pan-Africanist philosophy held that slavery and colonialism depended on and encouraged negative, unfounded categorizations of the race, culture, and values of African people. These destructive beliefs in turn gave birth to intensified forms of racism, the likes of which Pan-Africanism sought to eliminate.

As a broader political concept, Pan-Africanism's roots lie in the collective experiences of African descendants in the New World. Africa assumed greater significance for some blacks in the New World for two primary reasons. First, the increasing futility of their campaign for racial equality in the United States led some African Americans to demand voluntary repatriation to Africa. Next, for the first time the term Africans, which had often been used by racists as a derogatory description, became a source of pride for early black nationalists. Hence, through the conscious elevation of their African identity, black activists in America and the rest of the world began to reclaim the rights previously denied them by Western societies.