

Meet the Author Robin F. Bachin

Big Bosses

A Working Girl's Memoir of Jazz Age America

Thursday, May 25, 2017

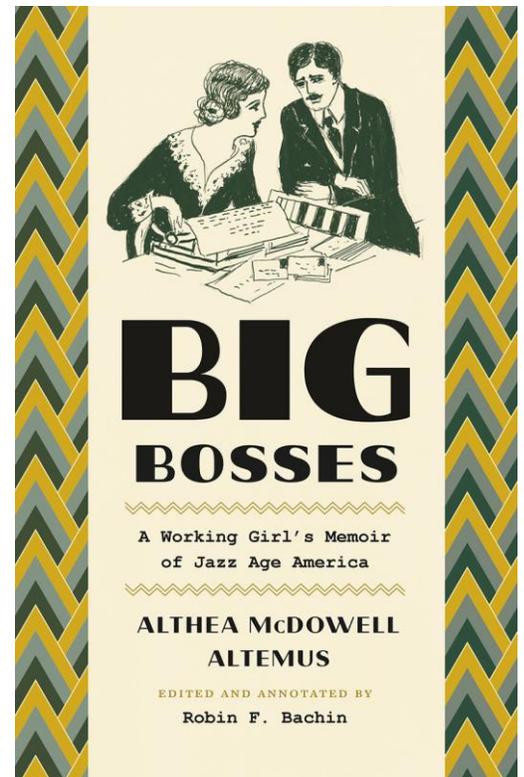
6:00 to 7:00 pm

The Newberry

60 West Walton Street, Chicago

Sharp, resourceful, and with a style all her own, Althea McDowell Altemus embodied the spirit of the independent working woman of the Jazz Age. In this memoir, she vividly recounts her life as a secretary for prominent (but thinly disguised) employers in Chicago, Miami, and New York during the late teens and 1920s. Alongside her we rub elbows with movie stars, artists, and high-profile businessmen, and experience lavish estate parties that routinely defied the laws of Prohibition.

Anchored by extensive annotation and an afterword from historian Robin F. Bachin, which contextualizes Altemus's narrative, *Big Bosses* provides a one-of-a-kind peek inside the excitement, extravagances, and the challenges of being a working woman roaring through the '20s.



Robin F. Bachin is Charlton W. Tebeau Associate Professor of History at the University of Miami. Her areas of research and teaching include American urban, environmental, and cultural history. Her first book, *Building the South Side: Urban Space and Civic Culture in Chicago, 1890-1919*, won the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Illinois History and Heritage.

Big Bosses will be available for purchase in the Newberry Bookstore. After the talk, Dr. Bachin will sign copies of the book in the lobby. Your purchase helps support the Newberry Library and this program's featured author.

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