



AUGUST 27, 2013

CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS:

MARCHING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK

THE WASHINGTON COURT HOTEL ON CAPITOL HILL

535 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON. D.C. 20001

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Subject to Change

“A TIME TO LEARN: MARCHERS FROM THE ORIGINAL '63 MARCH LOOK BACK AT THE MARCH THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES AND THE WORLD.”

TIME 8:45 am – 9:45 am	Location GRAND BALLROOM
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PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

So often when we think of the 1963 March on Washington we think of Dr. King and others whose names and faces have been written about and seen in history books. But there were at least 250,000 other people that were there that day. Indeed, had all those people not been there on August 28, 1963, it's doubtful that we would even be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. We are thankful and blessed that they were there. We should honor and hold them up whenever and wherever we can. So... we begin this important conference and conversation about civil rights with a panel that features some of the marchers that were there on August 28, 1963. They discuss their involvement in the original march and discuss what they see as the future of civil rights in America.

“A TIME TO LISTEN: YOUTH SPEAK OUT LIVE FROM JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA”

TIME 10:00 am – 11:00 am	Location GRAND BALLROOM
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STUDENT SPEAK OUT (VIA THE WORLD WIDE WEB)



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Through the use of the world wide-wide web, students sitting in their Jefferson Davis High School classroom (located in historic Montgomery, Alabama), will become full participants at the conference. Initially, they will share their views on education, violence, and law enforcement, and what is necessary to improve their lives as students and citizens. After the Youth Speak Out is finished, those same students will participate as members of the audience in subsequent conference workshops and panel discussions. Joining these students from Jefferson Davis High School are their teachers Shanesta Pettway and Aisha Taylor. Special thanks to Jefferson Davis High School Principal Cheryl Fountain for providing the leadership to make this very special panel discussion happen.

“BE STILL AND LISTEN: MODELS FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FREEDOM”

TIME 11:15 am – 12:30 am	Location GRAND BALLROOM
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PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

If the last fifty years have taught us one thing... it is this. Civil rights laws, regulations, and court cases alone cannot create the sustainable political and economic progress that is needed to “free” the thousands of Americans who continue to suffer civil and economic injustices. Sustainable and substantial progress will only occur through effective leadership – political as well as economic leadership. We’ve assembled a panel of business and political leaders who will discuss how they took the initiative and created their own business or grabbed the reigns of political leadership in their communities. Included among the panelist are the Honorable Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. and successful entrepreneur William A. Thurman of Sunbelt Soft Drinks. If you’ve ever thought about running for office or running your own business, don’t miss this panel discussion.

“THEY’VE TAKEN IT AWAY. NOW IT’S TIME THAT WE TAKE IT BACK”

TAKING UP THE CAUSE OF D.C. STATEHOOD

TIME 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Location ASH LAWN
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PANEL DISCUSSION



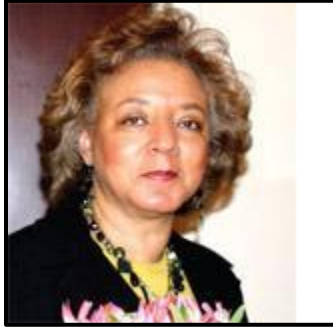
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

More than a half a million people live in the District of Columbia. They pay their full share of federal taxes; fight and die in the same wars as any other American; and have the same set of civics responsibilities that a resident would have in any other state, yet they are denied voting representation in the United States House and the Senate. D.C. Vote has been working to change all of that. During this panel discussion, Kimberly Perry, Executive Director of D.C. Vote and her dedicated staff explain why this issue should matter to you even if you don’t live in the District of Columbia. Attend this panel discussion and learn what leaders are doing to secure full voting representation in Congress for the District of Columbia and how you can support that effort.

“STATE TAKE OVERS: HOW TO FIGHT BACK”

TIME 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Location ASH LAWN
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PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Increasingly, as a result of state takeovers, appointments of emergency managers, and mayoral control, urban voters are losing their right to elect their own representatives. Residents in municipalities and school districts from across this country frequently find themselves victims of “taxation without representation”. Some have argued that this is no accident that this is happening almost exclusively in communities of color. Pontiac School Board President Carol Turpin knows all about Emergency Financial Managers and how the appointment of such managers can limit the power of elected officials. Howard Eagle, a community activist in Rochester, New York, knows all about fending off attacks on democratically elected school boards by proponents of concepts like Mayoral Control. Listen to their experiences. Learn how to take charge before you get taken over.

**“TAKEN FOR GRANTED: A DEBATE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES ON WHO CAN
BEST SERVE THE CIVIL RIGHTS CONCERNS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR”**

TIME 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Location ASH LAWN
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DEBATE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Two political strategist (one political strategist from the republic party the other a political strategist for democratic causes and candidates) will debate the relevance and effectiveness of their respective parties and what each of these party can do to address the civil rights struggles that continue to exist for people of color, the disabled and LGBTQ community.

“FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES AND OUR LIBERTY”
DISMANTELLING THE CRADLE TO PRISON PIPELINE

TIME 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Location EXECUTIVE
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PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Children’s Defense Fund coined the phrase the “cradle to prison pipeline”. Author Michele Alexander referred to it as “The New Jim Crow”. Whatever you call it, the impact of the wholesale incarceration of African Americans and Latinos is clear. Like slavery things like racial profiling and other disparities in the criminal justice system have destroyed families and devastated entire communities. Listen and learn from a panel of experts including Bruce Alexander, Commissioner of Schools Akron, Ohio; Christi Griffin, Esq. of the Ethics project; Sheila A. Bedi, Associate Clinical Professor, NW University School of Law. Each will discuss proven strategies for dismantling the cradle to prison pipeline and how we can bring hope to the young men and women of color who are caught up in the strong pipeline current of the criminal justice system.

“FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES”

TIME 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Location EXECUTIVE

PANEL DISCUSSION



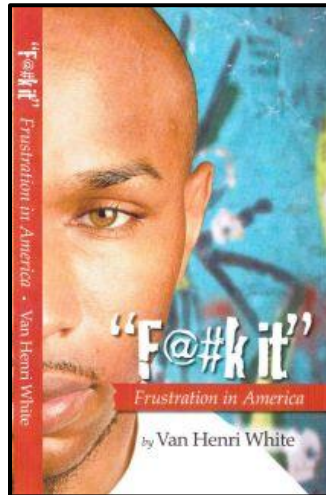
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Some Second Amendment proponents believe that by repealing gun control legislation, they are protecting the civil rights of every American citizen. On the other hand, gun control proponents argue that by allowing unrestricted access to gun sales, urban communities have become killing fields where no one has any rights. Either way you look at it, in a very real way, the controversy over how to handle the issue of violence is going to affect someone’s rights. Our panelist will discuss ways to deal with guns and gun violence. Leading the discussion will be Julie Eichorn, National Diversity Coordinator for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Donald Padgett, Member of Mothers United Against Violence Hartford, CT. Both of these organizations have waged successful campaigns against guns, drugs, and the senseless violence that has destroyed the dreams of far too many urban residents.

“HOW TO ‘KEEP HOPE ALIVE’”.

TIME 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Location EXECUTIVE
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WORKSHOP



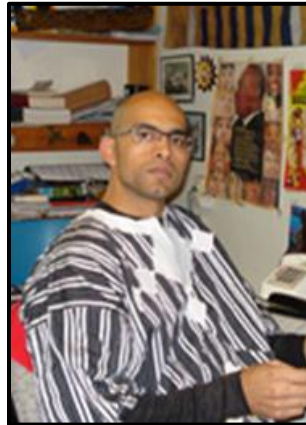
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Decades ago Jesse Jackson told us that we needed to “keep hope alive”. But despite that wise advice, today, we find that many young men of color have given up hope. After being beat up, put down, and locked up, many men of color have simply given up. Furthermore, when our judicial, educational, and other institutional leaders fail to protect these young men, they become even more discouraged. In his book, *Frustration in America*, former prosecutor and civil rights attorney Van White maintains that “we must look within; to our faith; and to our families to get to a place where hope is restored in our lives.” White identifies “Ten Habits of Hope” which if followed will keep hope alive. But this workshop will not focus on White’s Ten Habits of Hope. Participants in this workshop will be asked to collectively identify the ten most important habits that an individual can have in their lives in order to be successful. This Top Ten List will be presented at the end of the conference with the goal of publishing that list and sharing it with families and individuals across the country.

“WORDS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”
“MASS MEDIA, MUSIC AND THE MOVEMENT.”

TIME 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Location HERMITAGE
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PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

One thing is very clear - the leaders of the 1960s civil rights movement were keenly aware of the importance of the mass media. Television images of peaceful protesters running from dogs and firehouses; newspaper photographs of bombed out churches and bloodied Freedom Riders, would all move public opinion in favor of the movement. With all of today's available electronic, print, and digital media, you'd think we'd have an easier time getting our message out? Instead, it appears that we only occasionally engage the media when we're in the midst of a crisis or controversy. But what is our message throughout the balance of the year? Some would say that if you listen to the radio or watch music videos, our message is now of messagenistic and masochistic. Our panel of media experts, including Professor John Youngblood (Professor of Communication at S.U.N.Y. Potsdam) and Dr. Elijah Foulk, will lead a lively and engaging discussion around media, messaging, and the movement.

“GETTING THEM TO THE MOUNTAINTOP: CAN THE MESSAGE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS STILL BE HEARD”

TIME 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Location HERMITAGE

PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

During the 1960s, religious leaders were the face of the civil rights movement. What is the role of the church and other religious institutions in the present day civil rights movement? Do they or can they even be expected to have the influence that they had five decades ago? We've asked three respected religious leaders and theologians (Rev. Dr. Cassandra "Pastor C" Gould of the African Methodist Episcopal Church located in Jefferson City, Missouri; Rev. Dr. Samuel V. White III of Friendship Baptist Church in Detroit Michigan; and Reverend Kenneth L. Simons Co-Chair of the Greater Youngstown Ohio MLK Jr. Planning Committee) to answer the question – "can you still get us to the mountain top?"

“CIVIL RIGHTS WRITERS’ WORKSHOP”

TIME 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	Location HERMITAGE
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WORKSHOP



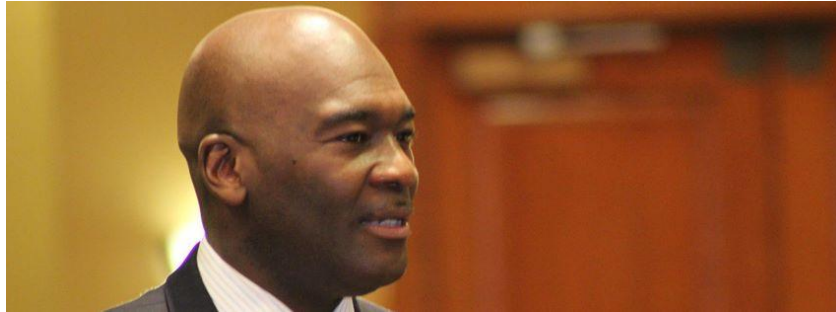
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

The Board of the Center for the Study of Civil and Human Rights Laws (CFSCHRL) choose three authors whose written works on civil rights (and other related subjects) have educated and enlightened their readers. We’ve purposefully chosen three writers who have excelled in three different forms of writing: one nonfiction author; one poet; and one author who has maximized his presence on the World Wide Web. Presenting at this Writers’ Workshop are: Gary Younge, author of “The Speech: The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Dream”; poet and spoken word artist Abiola Valentine; and Robert Hill Sr. who has an impressive and inspiring presence on the World Wide Web. From their different experiences, workshop attendees can learn of the various ways which they can impact public opinion and thought. Join this workshop and truly witness how the “the pen is more powerful for the sword.”

“BROWN V. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: FINISHING WHAT THEY STARTED”

TIME 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Location SAGAMORE HILL
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PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Are you concerned that your school district isn't any more integrated than it was 50 years ago after the Brown decision? Are all your county's poor concentrated in your urban neighborhoods? Does the fact that children of color consistently score below Caucasian children in standardized tests concern you? Do black and brown students in your high schools and colleges dropout in greater percentages than Caucasian students? Do students of color in your schools have more limited access to advanced or accelerated courses in your schools? Do African American boys get suspended or punished at greater rates than the Caucasian students in your schools? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then you'll want to attend this panel discussion. Three experienced educational leaders (Jean Claude Brizard former Chief Executive Officer of Chicago public schools; Cherise Peters Vice Provost at Alabama State University; and Dr. Brian Perkins Professor at Columbia University) will lead a discussion focused on the ways in which you can close the achievement and opportunity gaps which exist in your secondary and post-secondary schools.

“THE FREEDOM SCHOOL WAY”

TIME 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm	Location SAGAMORE HILL
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WORKSHOP



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

In 1964 “Freedom Schools” were developed as part of the Freedom Summer Civil Rights Project. The purpose of that effort was to educate and engage volunteers in a massive voter registration effort. At its height, over 3000 African American students attended Freedom Schools during the summer of 1964. Throughout the sixties, the curriculum was student-centered and culturally relevant. Fortunately, fifty years later, Freedom Schools still exist throughout the United States. Today Freedom Schools are supported and sustained by the Children’s Defense Fund. One of the most successful Freedom Schools is run by the North East Area Neighborhood Development Corporation (NEAD). NEAD’s Executive Director, George Moses, will be joined by several Freedom School “servant leaders”. Their presentation will be informative and inspiring. When you leave this workshop you’ll be convinced that there’s only one way to move a community forward and that way is “the Freedom School Way”.

“DAUGHTERS OF DESTINY: THE EXPERIENCE AND ROLE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN OUR HISTORY AND IN OUR FUTURE.”

TIME 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm

Location SAGAMORE HILL

PANEL DISCUSSION



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Often times the role of women in the civil rights struggle has been over shadowed. For example, very few people know that it was women in Montgomery, Alabama who had the idea to start an organized bus boycott. Today, 50 years later, women are still leading the way. We are fortunate and blessed to have three such women who have programs and initiatives that making a difference in their communities. Dr. Wanda Clemmons has been teaching for more than twenty years. Together she and her daughter (Niquanna Clemmons) who is also a teacher have created a dynamic program for their female students in Los Angeles County School District. They call it “Daughters of Destiny”. Joining Dr. Clemmons and Niquanna Clemons will be Jasmine A. Stewart. Ms. Stewart could also be described as a Daughter of Destiny. As a President of Feathers of Ma' at Bowie State University she brings the unique perspective of the struggles and successes of the African American female college student. Come and learn how these women are having an impact on the lives of others in their community.

**CLOSING SESSION:
“A TIME TO LEAD”**

TIME 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Location GRAND BALLROOM
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Part One (5:00 pm – 5:15 pm)

Facilitators report back with respect to what solutions were proposed in each session

Part Two (5:15 pm – 5:30 pm)

Discussion Regarding Ten Habits of Hope

