Small Acts of Courage

Memories of the Civil Rights Movement

Volume 1

Windsor 7 - 2014

King Middle School ~ Portland, Maine

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Written by the students of Windsor 7

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Introduction

This spring, the students of Windsor 7 were busy working on the expedition *Small Acts of Courage*, a project that focused on the Civil Rights Movement and racial inequality throughout America. Several years ago, two of Windsor 7's teachers, Karen MacDonald and Caitlin LeClair, traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend a Civil Rights Expedition for Educators, a professional development opportunity sponsored by Expeditionary Learning. At this program, our teachers learned in greater detail the story of the Little Rock Nine and the way Central High was integrated. They experienced first hand what it feels like to enter through the large doors of the school and walk through its many hallways. Then, a few summers ago, Mrs. LeClair traveled to Washington D.C., to interview John Lewis, an American politician and former Civil Rights Movement leader. This experience taught her about his life and how to conduct a proper interview. Together, these events inspired our teachers to create the expedition *Small Acts of Courage* and prepared them to support us while we completed this work.

The students of Windsor 7 first started learning about the Civil Rights Movement on January 15th, the day of our kickoff. On this day, our house participated in multiple activities: singing freedom music from the Civil Rights Movement, experiencing a sit-in demonstration, viewing a gallery of photos from the time, and listening to a presentation by Mr. McCarthy about the history of King Middle School and how it previously separated students into academic levels. We then went on to learn about many events that took place within the movement including the integration of Central High, the March on Selma, the March on Washington, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Brown vs. Board of Education court case, and the Birmingham Children's Crusade. For fieldwork, we visited the Gerald E. Talbot collection at the University of Southern Maine and viewed the artifacts displayed there. After we had built background knowledge, we began interviewing local Maine citizens who had participated in the Civil Rights Movement in some way including a Tuskegee Airman, a U.S. senator, and a court judge. These brave men and women generously contributed their time to share their stories with us, and without their help our expedition would not have been possible.

During our expedition, we learned about many movement leaders and events that were crucial to the Civil Rights Movement, but what struck us the most was the cruel way that segregationists would discriminate against people solely because of the color of their skin. From listening to our interviewees stories, we got an idea of what it must have been like during that time, but we can still only imagine. We live in a very diverse city, with people from all over the world, and go to a school that introduces us to many different cultures. Being with people from other races is natural to us and we take it for granted, but we know that not so long ago, America was a place filled with racism, and many students our age were not accustomed to being around people of other races. This time period seems like another world to us, as we hardly ever see discrimination against blacks, but America was once filled with it, and even today, it has not all disappeared. America is a country that has come a long way, but, as many interviewees pointed out, there is still much work to be done. During our expedition, we not only learned about the history of our country, but also the effect ordinary citizens can make by accomplishing their own small acts of courage.

Julia Adams

Julia Adams is a courageous woman who became friends with a black student, Josephine Boyd. Josephine was the first African-American student to attend Greensboro High School.

"*People are people. We should all be treated equal with respect and kindness.*"

Julia Adams is a brave woman with a good heart. Her senior year in high school she became friends with Josephine Boyd, an African-American woman who went to Greensboro High School. She became friends with Josephine because Josephine was all alone. Josephine was hated at Greensboro High School in North Carolina because of her skin color. However Beth Needles, Monika Engelkn and Ginger Parker became friends with Josephine and helped her through the difficult times.

Josephine lived in a small black community near the high school. The school had all white students. The students were very racist, but the cafeteria was the worst place. Julia Adams, Ginger Parker and Beth Needles sat with Josephine at lunch. The high school students would dump ketchup, mayonnaise, and garbage on Josephine and one boy gave her an ice cream cup full of trash. "Josephine needed friends because it was hard being alone," said Julia Adams. Ginger Parker, Monika Engelkn, (a German exchange student) and Beth Needles were there for Josephine also. Julia Adams always stood up for herself.

When Julia Adams stood up for Josephine Boyd, she got threatening calls at her house from boys trying to scare her. Some of Julia's friends didn't like her friendship with Josephine. Julia told the boys to stop bothering her. "I was just too strong for abuse."

Josephine Boyd suffered as a result of the hatred of the people at Greensboro High. Josephine was angry with herself for not staying to graduate. She ended up going to another high school, Dudley High School, which was predominantly black.

In 2006, Josephine Boyd was interviewed about her experiences. Julia said she would never go back to Greensboro High School but she changed her mind because Josephine was giving a speech there. High school was a difficult time for Josephine, but her friendship with Julia helped her.

Julia Adams had done a very good thing by befriending Josephine Boyd her friend. She helped Josephine to stand up for herself and she stood up for what she believed in. Today, Julia Adams is a member of the Portland Maine String Quartet and Josephine Boyd lives in Atlanta, Georgia. The four friends are now living their own great and peaceful lives.

--by Kazi A.

Dan Amory

Despite coming from a stable family where there were no problems, Dan left his home and joined The Civil Rights Movement. He was always ready to make a lot of sacrifices for African Americans in this country so they could fully gain their rights. Even though that hasn't been achieved yet, Dan was one of many that helped us come all this way, and he is still involved.

"*It was a time where there was a real right and wrong and I wanted to be on the side of the right, if I could*."

In 1965, Dan Amory was a civil rights activist along with many others. His feelings on the Civil Rights Movement and the way he viewed segregation influenced him greatly. "I was angry about what was happening in the South." He clearly wanted to do something about how blacks were treated in this country. His great grandfather founded a college for blacks. After the civil war there wasn't any education for blacks. This college was important because blacks rarely ever went to college. By opening the college, Dan's great grandfather made it possible for blacks who lived in the South to go on to college.

Daniel Amory was born in 1946 in Boston. He was born into a happy middle class family. "I had no problems since I was white." Dan said. They moved to Washington D.C. in 1952 and he lived there until he left for college. He was six years old when he moved there and in 1964 he graduated from high school. He was seventeen years old when he graduated. His mother's side of the family were educators and environmentalists. His father's side were business men and merchants. After his freshmen year in college, he decided to go down to Mississippi to see how he could participate in the Civil Rights Movement.

During the movement Dan had a lot of experiences that stood out to him. First, someone threw a brick through the mayor's car window. He was arrested while participating in a protest, and they threw him and his companions in a school bus and drove them to a place in the

middle of no where. Here, police officers were deciding whether or not to have them beaten. Fortunately, they were set free. When they arrived they threw them in cells. They were not discouraged however. They sang songs all night long until they got them out of prison at around morning. The police told them that they had to drink a laxative called milk of magnesia. Dan refused to drink it, and they told him he was going to drink it whether he liked it or not. He said

"at the time I decided not to get my jaw broken and I drank 30 ounces." They let him go the next morning.

Though Dan was in hard times he still participated. First, he signed on with the Delta Minister. In late June of 1965 he went to Greenville. Greenville was a poverty stricken town, and people struggled to get by in their daily lives. At the time it was also very segregated. If the whites struggled the lives of African Americans were even harder. The music known as the blues was originally from the delta very near to Greenville. At the time he always found himself busy either participating in the movement or demonstrations or even working on different projects for African American civil rights. After that he traveled to Philadelphia. There he kept up his efforts. Later he went to Mississippi. This time, he stayed in Rosedale. There he worked on voting rights. Mr. Amory also tried to teach adult blacks learn to read and write. This didn't go very well because as he said, “I wasn't a very good teacher." So instead he let someone else do the teaching. later, he did some other work around the war on poverty.

His time in the South wasn't always peaceful. As you can imagine, he witnessed violence. Once, he was beaten up and tried to defend himself. He was beaten up by a stevedore because he was a civil rights worker. Demonstrations were not illegal, but they were still frowned upon by the police. One of his high school friends was a college wrestler. The police officer reached to him to try to pull off a pin and the wrestler brushed him off. At the same time, the officer had a heart attack! The wrestler was charged with first degree murder. Dan's father and the wrestler's father made a deal that if their kids ever gotten into trouble then the other parent would look after the other one's kid until he got back. The wrestler's father was in Europe, so Dan's father flew down as quick as he could. "A civil rights worker in Mississippi charged with first degree murder, NOT a good thing,” said Dan. This was true because they hated anyone who would want there to be civil rights and equality. Now Dan's friend was even charged with murder, thats even worse.

Dan was angry about what was happening in the South. He felt just like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. felt that "all men are created equal." He was furious of how the blacks were being treated. Later, Many African Americans thought that whites were bad. Malcom X, an extreme civil rights activist, said all whites are "blue eyed devils." This wasn't true however, because people like Mr. Amory were white and they were on the side of the blacks. Some of the African American civil rights organizations did not accept whites because they might have been spies for the FBI or Ku Klux Klan. Dan was lucky enough not to have been ejected from any of those organizations.

Mr. Amory didn't feel like he had a big impact on the Civil Rights Movement; many people impacted not just the presence of one person. Some people like Dan put themselves at risk and actually risk their own lives. Some did lose their lives such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcom X, But other people other than the leaders lost their lives, as well. Mr. Amory participated by signing up for acts like voter registration and demonstrations, and surveys for the war on poverty. He was imprisoned, beaten up, and knew his friend was charged with murder, but nothing ever got his spirit down. In fact he seemed to be even more active after his friends trial.

"I was an upper middle class kid," said Dan. At the time he was leaving his comfort zone and risking his life for this movement. While participating in the movement, Dan Amory overcame many obstacles during his participation in the Civil Rights Movement. It's hard to imagine that he came from being imprisoned for no reason to becoming a lawyer. Dan's involvement in civil rights ended in 1967. He is now an environmentalist serving his community in other ways.

--by Derrick I.

Eric Blanchard

During his time in Selma, Alabama, Eric Blanchard worked for the voting rights of African-Americans. Eric Blanchard has strong opinions about civil rights issues and has supported his opinions with actions.

"*Everyone isn't perfect. We all judge sometimes. We all dislike people. That's fine. It's part of our nature, but to dislike and exclude a whole race? That's absurd!*"

Mr. Eric Blanchard is a retired tennis official and journalist who leads a quiet life in Freeport, Maine. He has many fascinating stories from his experiences during the Civil Rights Movement. He believes that America has come very far, but still has a long way to go regarding racial equality.

We all know that there is a lot more work to do regarding racism worldwide, and Eric is looking forward to taking on racism head-on. "People need to spend more time getting along. If that happens we will have a brighter future." Eric said. He also stated, "Now that you kids are interested, your generation can continue to straighten this out." Many schools today are full of many diverse cultures and races, and the students and teachers are kind and supportive to everyone. Sadly, America was not always like this.

Eric grew up in New York City in an upper-class white neighborhood. His mother owned an antique shop called Blanchard and Son. To earn and save money, Eric would count his pennies carefully and he invested in war bonds for eighteen dollars and fifty cents apiece. Later, he earned twenty-five dollars and fifty cents back from the banks. unfortunately, Eric's mother died when he was fifteen and he and his late sister were sent to a Quaker boarding school in Pennsylvania. Eric loved his family immensely.

Eric was involved in marches and protests during the Civil Rights Movement. One of these was the March on Selma, where Eric marched over the Edmund Pettus Bridge just two days after Bloody

Sunday. This day is more commonly know as Turn-Around Tuesday. The protestors of the march didn't expect to be turned away, but when they were blocked by the police, they got on their knees and prayed silently, and then turned and left. Eric's boss had instructed him to not get arrested. Eric helped arrange transport for the marchers so he needed to stay ,"well and able". Eric traveled to the South to work with the Council of Churches or Churches United, which he would also work with later on in his life. He was also the public information officer for the Commission on Race and Religion (CORR).

Eric also experienced the Philadelphia police brutality. Eric describes these riots as a "transformative experience" for him. Some whites thought they were superior to blacks and he thought that this wasn't how it was supposed to be. These riots had a lot of police brutality. "Law enforcement was the backbone and the muscle of the Civil Rights Movement, and if the law is on the wrong side. then the movement will head in the wrong direction." Eric said. Eric remembers Labor Day weekend in 1965, a protest at Girard College. The protesters were peacefully lying on the sidewalk while police cars puffed exhaust over their heads. Eric was there.

Mr. Blanchard claims to be a "recovering racist". To him, this means that he used to be a racist and has worked to change."Back then I considered myself to be a non-racist." Eric was in a fraternity and when the name of a black student came up Eric said, "I don't think he would feel comfortable here." Eric stated, "This was the turning point in my life when I discovered my own biased." Eric wants to start a group called Racists Anonymous, where, no matter what is said, you have to stay in and listen. If you are uncomfortable... you still stay. If the things people say are offensive... you still stay. Eric thinks this kind of group will educate people about the amount of work we still have to do regarding racism.

Eric says that the fight for civil rights and equality isn't over. The way that he speaks about his time during the Civil Rights Movement shows how dedicated he is to this cause. When Eric was telling his stories, you could tell just how happy he was knowing that kids our age were interested in the work we still have to do to make our country a better, safer, and more equal place.

—by May W.

Sharon Bresler

Sharon Bresler believes strongly in equality and wanted to make a difference in the world. She believes that everyone should have equal rights. She participated in many events and stood up for what was right.

"It was kind of exciting but a little risky. I did feel sort of proud to be out there carrying a sign, saying we're standing up for justice and equality."

Sharon Bresler was born on 1948 in Fairfield, Connecticut. She was raised by a family who believed greatly in equality, so Sharon grew up knowing that. During the Civil Rights Movement, Sharon participated in many amazing events. Later in her life she worked as a teacher at King Middle School. She worked with the special education program and retired in 2007. The Civil Rights Movement helped reinforce Sharon's beliefs in what was right and that everyone deserves equal rights.

Sharon grew up in a town where there was not much diversity. "Portland has wonderful diversity but my town didn't." Her town was a place where there were mostly white people and middle class people. "Most of the people I knew were very much like me," she recalled. She didn't know very many people who had different backgrounds. Sharon grew up believing in equality. Her family believed very strongly in equality, so Sharon was brought up knowing that people should be treated the same.

As a child, Sharon and her family experienced the country through the small screen of a wooden television. All of the news came in black and white. As a nine year old Sharon saw nine students being escorted into Little Rock Central High School by soldiers. "It was just shocking to me. I was young but I knew something was wrong." It was shocking for her to see all those soldiers surround the kids, just to go to a public school. That was her first experience witnessing

inequality. "It was my first introduction to the fact that the United States was full of inequality and it was very wrong."

Sharon had never been to the South before, but in 1963 her family drove to Florida to visit her grandparents. During the trip Sharon's family stopped at a gas station. Sharon read three signs that said Men,

Women and Colored. “It made me feel uncomfortable. Skin color, a foreign accent, or any other difference didn't mean that somebody was less than me.” Sharon was upset how there was a restroom of "Colored" for both men and women. She had to use the women's restroom but was still upset about the inequality. After witnessing this, something in Sharon changed and she wanted to be involved in the Civil Rights Movement and make a difference, so she joined the NAACP.

As a high school student, Sharon joined the NAAC P Youth Council. The group was very active and the Youth Council worked with adults. The goal of the NAACP Youth Council was to decrease de-facto segregation and make the city equal for all citizens. De-facto segregation is the practice of segregating African-Americans, but it wasn't a law. This is one reason why the NAACP was organized to minimize de-facto segregation. As part of the Youth Council, Sharon picketed around the Bridgeport Board of Education, demanding them to integrate. The NAACP was also a good way for Sharon to meet other people who were different from her. It was her first deep involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

Martin Luther King Jr. came to Bridgeport to speak. As a member of the NAACP Youth Council, Sharon and her group were the ushers at the event, so she got in for free. She saw many people who were involved in the struggle for civil rights. It was a very long evening, but at the end of the evening it was Martin Luther King Jr. turn to share his speech. Dr. King's speech amazed the crowd. "It was just an unbelievable experience, I knew I was in the presence of greatness." Sharon thought his speech was incredibly inspiring. 'It was incredibly powerful to be in that same room with this man talking about justice and equality, and peace and how to achieve justice. He was just a wonderful speaker."

When Sharon was still a member of the NAACP Youth Council, she picketed in Bridgeport, saying it was wrong to segregate schools. They carried signs quietly down the streets. She thought that it was wrong to segregate schools and it was unfair. When they picketed, there were other people that were against what Sharon was standing up for. They called Sharon and her group communists, and took photos of them. This made Sharon feel nervous, but luckily it was never published. "It was kind of exciting but a little risky. I did feel sort of proud to be out there carrying a sign, saying were standing up for justice and equality." Sharon thought it was important to stand up for what was right.

In 2011, Sharon along with her mother and sister took a civil rights pilgrimage, to visit Birmingham, Alabama. Sharon got a private tour of the Dexter Avenue Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. was the minister. She saw Dr. King's office, where he wrote his speeches. "There was just something of just standing at his desk that was just moving for us." She saw the basement were they organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott and saw the park where the children were attacked by fire hoses, but is now a park of peace. It was very moving for her, to see Birmingham's history.

Overall, the Civil Rights Movement helped reinforce Bresler's belief in what was right and that everyone should have equal rights. Her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement turned into an amazing story. After participating in many civil rights events, Sharon has made a difference in the world by making it equal for everyone in her own way. "It was just a positive feeling."

-- by Grace Deng

Larry Burris

Larry Burris is a courageous man who fought for integration during the Civil Rights Movement. He worked in the Navy and experienced segregation. Even though he believes that we've come a long way, he also thinks that we still have a long way to go.

"*Wherever you go and whatever you do, always have this thing in you that there is nobody better than you*."

Larry Burris is a kind man who didn't deserve to live a tough life, but he did. "You had to have tough skin to get where you want to go." Larry shared. He grew up in Tipton Missouri, where he experienced segregation and discrimination. It was a hard life for him to grow up in a segregated country and he wanted a change. He was voted president of his high school class but wasn't allowed to hold this office because of his race. The school fixed it so he was vice president instead.

When Larry was in Missouri, he experienced segregation in the town of Tipton. Tipton was divided into two sections. The North side and the South side. In the South side, there were paved roads, and better stores. This was where white people lived. On the North side, there were poor restaurants, cheap stores, unpaved roads and this is where colored people lived.

In 1957, Larry Burris moved to Brunswick, Maine. Things were a bit different when he moved, but there was still discrimination. Mr. Burris saw a big difference between Maine and Missouri. "In the South, if they don't want you there, they'll tell you, 'don't come'." While in Maine, discrimination was still hidden. "Up here (Maine), they'll invite you and you'll get there and the shades are down." He remembered that, "People in the state of Maine are very, very cliquey." He explained that, "If you get in the clique up here in Maine or Portland it's easier for

you to advance, but if you don't get in the clique, it's kind of hard." He said, "Discrimination was there, it was just hidden."

Later, Larry Burris joined the Navy. When he enlisted, things were starting to change but segregation was still there, especially in the South. People in the South gave colored people a hard time. Larry Burris explained how white people acted in the South. He said, "Don't look how people present

themselves to you, just give the impression that you know as much as they do. Some of the white people did this because they were never taught the difference. It's like you grew up with your family, and they taught you this, this and this. You carry it into the world." Larry continued explaining that, "If you are never taught the difference, this is what you think, and this is what you think it's all about." Larry Burris experienced racism while he was in the Navy. Black people were serving their country as well as being abused. During that time, black people couldn't have all of what they wanted, or do what they preferred. For these reason they never stopped to fight for themselves.

Larry Burris also participated in the March on Washington. It was led by. The word was going around that people would gather between the Washington Monument and the Capitol Building. At that time, Mr. Burris was 27 years old. He decided to be a part of it. One of the things that motivated him to be a part of the march was excitement. "I didn't know what it was all about. I didn't know what was going to happen." On August 28, 1963, Larry Burris and thousands of people took buses to go to Washington for the march. They started on Commercial Street in Portland at about 8:00 got to the march, people of all different races were mingling and coming together for the same reason. "It was so amazing to see what I saw." People gathered at the Monument where Dr. King gave his "I Have A Dream" speech.

When President Obama was elected, Larry Burris cried because he was so happy. He said that, "I never thought that I would ever see a colored president or a colored person with a big responsibility." Larry believes that President Obama has a hard role to play. "They don't want him to have a credit for what happened to people. This is why we stay where we are now, nothing gets done."

Later he said, "We take a step forward and something comes up, we go back a step." Larry Burris believes that the fight will go on forever. "To be prejudice is something that's in people." Mr Burris thinks that the reason why we are staying in one place is because black history is not taught in schools as much as it should be. "Young people are not taught what really happened...Young people should change everything that our elders didn't accomplish."

Overall, with all these changes that have been accomplished, Mr. Burris sometimes still feels inferior. "It's something that's in you, and you can't get it out of you." Larry Burris also believes that young people can change everything that our elders did not accomplish. His advice was: "Wherever you go and whatever you do, always have this thing in you that there is nobody better than you." Larry had many stories that will not only help us with our learning, but also with our everyday life.

—by Nicole I.

Jared Clark

As Jared Clark grew up, he played a small but important role in the Civil Rights Movement. Jared and his family were the kind of people who knew that they wanted to make a difference. Instead of sitting back and watching other people do it for them, they went ahead and did it themselves.

"*Everybody deserves the opportunity to excel based on their abilities*."

Jared Clark was just a boy when he and his family began their journey to justice and equality. The Clarks played a significant role in integrating neighborhoods. When Jared and his relatives put themselves on the line for another black family they were doing something that changed lives forever. Although it was a risk they did a very selfless act for someone who they had just met. Jared Clark is a very courageous man with a fascinating story.

When the black family first moved into the neighborhood, they had to prove a point. They had to show other people that it was not a crime for black people and white people to live on the same street. Jared and his family had to choose who would live in the house very carefully. The Clarks knew that there might be violence at first, and they needed a family that would take the pain in stride. When the black family moved in, there was a lot of tension. Jared's father, who was a lawyer, tried to explain what was happening to their neighbors. The other people in the neighborhood did not like the black family, and they were not going to hide their hatred. Jared and his family also experienced violence at first because they were the people who rented out their house. Jared lost most of his school friends, but he became friends with the black children very quickly, creating a great bond. Once the family got situated, people started to calm down.

As time passed, everything started to become calm. The children still experience violence from time to time, especially at the bus stop, but for the most part things were going well. The black family was happy in their new home. They were only a few houses down from the Clarks, who were their close friends. The Clarks formed a support group with the family. These meetings would provide time for the adults to talk about the current situation, and gave children time to

be together and enjoy themselves. The black family knew that things were still awkward between them and other people in the neighborhood, but they had made it through. By this point, most people in the neighborhood had subsided to ignoring them instead of violence, which was very good for the well-being of the black family and of the Clarks. It almost felt as though the family belonged in that neighborhood. Even though many people had prejudices about integration, they had found better things to do besides hurting the innocent family.

While Jared was growing up, racial prejudice was a serious matter. To Jared, “racial prejudice has been and continues to be a volatile topic in this country." Prejudice is something that has been happening across America for years. It is a well known issue, and was very

important during the Civil Rights Movement. Prejudice is not just a light problem, it is a problem that many people have sadly experienced. During the Civil Rights Movement, racial prejudice was something commonly used by segregationists as a form of power. To Jared, racial prejudice was an unfair view point of life that caused people to jump to conclusions. It also caused many people to judge not by the content of their character but by the color of their skin. Usually people do not try to get to know you before they start to expect things from you. Discrimination is based on racial stereotypes, making it impossible to change someones opinion about you. Bigotry was discouraged in many religions, including the religion Jared and his family were part of.

Growing up in a Quaker household, Jared and his family believed that racial prejudice was wrong. This influenced his opinions on integration and other topics related to the Civil Rights Movement. Because they were Quakers, his family also believed that they had to play some role, even a small one, in the Civil Rights Movement. "Quakers had a long tradition of trying to provide human justice." said Jared. They decided that they would contribute to the movement by being a part of neighborhood integration. He and his family wanted to bring about social change. As a lawyer, Jared's father decided that he would go around and explain what they were doing to their neighbors. Because they were Quakers, Jared and his family would go to meetings where they would discuss the issues of racism. They would also discuss their beliefs as Quakers. Jared believed that since his parents were Quakers they were making the right decisions for him and his family. His parents didn't believe in violence or killing because of their religion. Quakers played a huge role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Although Quakers believed in non-violence, they were not the only ones who hoped for the end of non-violence. Jared says that people believed that "they did not fight violence with violence, but fought back with non-violence." When the Clarks rented out their house, Jared was pushed and shoved at the bus stop. During the Civil Rights Movement, people such as Jared's family knew that they would have to fight back without stooping down to people's level of physical abuse. Instead of using violence, people took what they were subjected to in stride, showing others that they were stronger than them.

Values are very important to Jared and his family. "But at the end of the day they did what they did because they believed it was the right thing to do," said Jared Clark about values. If you're going to be involved in something as powerful as the Civil Rights Movement, you have to remember things such as your values. For if you can't be yourself, you can't be as powerful as you would be if you could just be you. Not only do you have to respect yourself, but you also need to respect the other people around you who may be going through something similar. If you're not treating people nicely, they might treat you the same way that you're treating them. In a situation where this may happen, it is hard to push through it and stand up for yourself. Even if you think you're doing the wrong thing, in the end you will feel great about yourself. Another undoubtedly important point that Jared made was that values are the "attitudes and ideas that you have that you consider most important." If you think you are doing the wrong thing, you should remember that your conscience is right, and you should trust it.

Today, Jared Clark is one of many people that was brave enough to stand up for what he believed in a time of hardship. Although there are still issues of civil rights today, times have changed drastically since the challenging era of the Civil Rights Movement. We thank Jared Clark and all other people for their small acts of courage and kindness. Even a small act can make a huge difference.

--by Emily F.

Nicole d'Entremont

Nicole d'Entremont is a very brave woman. She went to Selma, Alabama, with her friend Shawn right after "Bloody Sunday." She was scared during the march, but she didn't care about going to jail or being arrested because she knew that it was the right thing to do. The March on Selma impacted Nicole's life in a huge way.

"*We all had to make choices to stand up or not*."

Nicole d'Entremont was able to experience a historical march in our country's history during the Civil Rights Movement. She was a teacher, but now she is a writer in Maine. She has her own blog about her life, career, and her novels that she has written.

She went to the March on Selma because Martin Luther King, Jr. asked people to come down and march with them. When she heard about the Edmund Pettus Bridge during Bloody Sunday she and her friend Shawn asked their boss to go help and he said yes. During Bloody Sunday the police ran over people with horses and threw tear gas at them and beat them with night sticks. She worked for a paper called the Catholic Worker. When she got to Selma, civil rights leaders like John Lewis, Hosea Williams, and Martin Luther King Jr. were organizing people because Dr. King wanted this march to be the last non-violent march.

A few days after the march they stayed with an elderly woman because the black community opened their houses to them. They did this because the marchers were helping to fight for equal voting rights. Meanwhile, the white community left their doors shut because they were considered "White n****s" for marching with blacks and supporting them. "It was the best meal in my life time. We had fried chicken, corn bread, black eye peas, and for dessert peach cobbler and coffee," she said when they had dinner. When it was night time and they were marching a national guards man said "You got to get your white a***s back to New York City because after 12:00 we are done protecting you marchers." This meant that if after 12 if the National Guardsmen wanted to put on KKK robes and start hurting people they could.
Singing during the Civil Rights Movement was important for many African Americans. "We heard some singing at the end of this road and there were

twenty-thirty of our fellow demonstrators and so we linked arms and we started singing." Wilson Baker, the public service director, was there and he said "Well now ya'll oughta go back to your church or you're gonna be arrested. So now I'm gonna count to three and if you're not back in your church I'm gonna have to arrest you." The mayor said to a police man "Well at least when we arrested the Negroes they had good singing." When they sang back then it gave them a lot of courage. She said "I heard just

wonderful, wonderful singing when I was down in Selma." Singing during any event in the Civil Rights Movement gave spirit because the people that participated wanted to be peaceful while many whites back then just wanted to keep segregation instead of integration.

Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, and Hosea Williams, were major contributors that all helped the march in some way. The SCLC was Dr. King's organization and they helped spread the word about the march but they did not march because of the violence. They spread the word about how the march would be and what you would need during the march. Hosea Williams and John Lewis lead the march from Selma to Montgomery in Alabama because Dr. King was in Atlanta. The NAACP helped Martin Luther King, Jr. get northern white folks like Nicole and some black folks to come and help from their states. After the march ended there were 50,000 people that participated to help gain voting rights. When Shawn and Nicole were walking they walked too far and a truck of white guys followed them and this elderly black woman said "Hey you guys, over here" and she told them they were being followed and then she said "Ya'll come back tomorrow and we'll have dinner. As you can see, the civil rights leaders helped the movement a lot.

"The march impacted the people who participated in the Civil Rights Movement in any event which really changed peoples lives" said Nicole. Back then it made kids black and white stay away from each other because the blacks didn't have anything except hand me downs from the white schools. The Civil Rights Movement made kids back then realize what was going on and they had to help get equal rights for kids as well.

Nicole had strong emotions, feelings, and reactions to the march. She was shocked by how many people showed up to march at the end. She loved the weather down there because it was nice, and the sun was shining on her face. She didn't want to be arrested because she knew it was for what was right and what had to be done. She felt very emotional when she heard the beautiful music that they were singing in the South. She thought it helped them stay strong throughout the Civil Rights Movement. She was scared when the Ku Klux Klan shot a civil rights worker on a high way just for protesting. She reacted like she wanted to get out of there because the "Alabama boys" didn't want to hurt them but after twelve they could killed them.
Nicole d'Etremont remember in the March in Selma in a very emotional. When she heard about the Edmund Pettus Bridge she knew they needed help down in the South. They had a once and a life time experience that they couldn't pass up.

-- by Tyler L.

Jill Duson

Jill Duson is a magnificent and fearless woman who played a small but important role in the Civil Rights Movement. Her actions as a young girl turned her into a leader. Today, she holds a leadership position as a City Councilor in Portland, Maine.

"Parents were afraid of how me sitting in a room with their children would impact them."

Jill Duson played a small but important role in the Civil Rights Movement. She was a pioneer of school integration in Pennsylvania. Jill is currently a part of the City Council for Portland, Maine.

The elementary school she attended in Pennsylvania was extremely segregated, and they all knew it. The school was 95% black. They were not being treated the same as other schools. Their school only had two toilets for over 1000 kids. All the classrooms had hand me down furniture and few books, if any at all. The teachers were not paid as much and did not get a lot of materials. Most of them tried as hard as they could to be the best possible teachers without the best supplies. However, there were some teachers that acted like they were just babysitting. A lot of teachers didn't motivate the students to try hard and succeed in life. The teachers that didn't try as hard, and that made it difficult for Jill to persevere and succeed.

Jill Duson's family made education a main priority, which was an important life lesson. In fourth grade, Jill took her first act of activism. She was asked to integrate an elementary school along with seven other African American children. They chose

the eight specifically, aiming more towards the higher educated students. They also chose the eight students specifically because they knew the could handle the situation and be prepared. She remembered the faces of the parents when she arrived for the first day of school. She started to get emotional and said, "I remember seeing the look on the face of my mom as I left because she knew what could happen, the face of the

parents of the other kids at the school were almost exactly the same"

School segregation played a significant role in Jill's life. Many school days were missed because of protests and demonstrations at her school. Jill was one of eight African American students to integrate the white elementary school. When she arrived at school on the bus she remembers "The parents were afraid of how me sitting in a room with their children would impact them." It took over two years to desegregate. The school she attended before knew they had less supplies and hand-me-down items, nothing like the she went to before. They were not "walking around in a fog," they knew they were not being treated the same.

While the students were in school, they were all kept separate from each other. Maybe because the school board wanted them to make friends with the white children, and not just stick together. Kids started to move to private schools and move to different areas, also known as "the White Flight." After some time, they all started to make friends with the kids at the school. Clearly, a lot changed since the first day of school, but was still some work to be done.

As a mother, Jill was shocked to find out something that had been happening at her daughter's school. Jill's daughter was in kindergarten, and the first graders were learning about the Civil Rights Movement. The students were asked to draw something that they have learned from the books that they read. One little girl drew a picture, and it had the "N" word on it. Her daughter felt offended walking by the picture and talked to her mother about it. Jill addressed the school about the picture and it was taken down, but then Jill was left in the position of explaining in more detail what it actually meant. The little girl had no intent of hurting anyone's feelings, she was just writing something that she had seen in a book. This situation only means that we should be even more careful today then any other.

Today, Jill works for the City Council of Portland, Maine, and still believes that there is still a lot of work to be done. A lot of people during the Civil Rights Movement just sat back watching these terrible things happen, but not Jill Duson. She fought back.

—by Sebastian E.

Ida Marie Gammon

Ida Gammon says she wasn't a major contributor to the Civil Rights Movement, but she's wrong. Although she didn't participate in the widely televised sit-ins, she helped "behind the scenes." Even today she is still fighting to create equal rights.

"*I was going to stand up, speak up, and put up with the consequences of my actions*."

Ida Gammon is a very intelligent woman who participated in the Nashville, Tennessee sit-ins. Ida was born in 1944 in the South. She witnessed discrimination, racism, and other concepts of inequality that African Americans had to endure in their everyday life. Ida believed that standing up, speaking up, and putting up with the consequences of your actions was the right thing to do.

Ida Gammon talked about the history and origin of racism. Ida says that "racism as a construct came from some of the smallest landmasses in this world." This is significant because a big issue like racism can start from some of the smallest places but can still cause such hatred in the world.

Ida's family members were tenant farmers. Her great great grandparents were slaves brought over from Africa. For generations her family took the money they earned from day labor and evening work to purchase land for $5.00 an acre. Ida remembers that her father would struggle to get a loan for their farm from the bank. The bank charged them eleven percent interest as opposed to the average rate of three percent a white person might secure.

When she told her parents that she wanted to participate in the Civil Rights Movement they said she can't be seen or be heard because her parents thought that if she was seen they might lose their job or have a hard time getting a loan for the farm. When we asked her if her family supported her she said, "I had a family who gave me the example of standing up for what you believe in."

Economic inequality was the most important ideas that Ida talked about. She talked about how enslavement was now in the matter of

finances because when slaves were released they were put in a situation that was very hard for them not to become poor. Ida says, "Areas near Mississippi were uninhabitable to the white man because they were susceptible to malaria." but blacks weren't and they often settled in those areas. Also, Ida said that when there were water fountains specifically for whites it didn't bother her but the real problem was that you couldn't buy a house. Ida mentions that the black neighborhoods didn't have any infrastructure at all but the white neighborhoods had running water, gas, and heating.

Ida also talked about how whites had more rights then blacks. Ida recalled seeing the movie, "The Help." She said the most telling scene in the movie is when this character was walking from the white community to the black community and she tripped and fell. She said that this showed the differences of the inhabited white community to the rural black communities. Also, she told us about her college and how education was unfair. Her science class didn't have any supplies, but the white classrooms did. She also said her community had no infrastructure but as soon as you crossed the railroad tracks there was gas, lights, and water pipes.

Ida was involved in the Nashville sit-ins. The Nashville, Tennessee sit-ins made it impossible for department stores to make money. demonstrators would stand around in areas where blacks weren't allowed until they got arrested. This made whites not want to shop at these stores. In Ida's words, "we were trying to devastate the white economy." She said that it was the “short cut to financial freedom.” Ida was personally doing it because she did not want to live with financial in-equality her whole life. She said that she didn't want to bring children up in a world where one race had all the benefits and another was excluded. Ida said every one else "set out to break that system."

Ida Gammon told us that the stereotypes you heard specifically about the Civil Rights movement weren't true. She also taught us that every thing that you hear in the media isn't true. We were also taught that there was a deeper reason for everything that blacks did in the Civil Rights Movement. Ida is a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. Even today she is talking to people about the discrimination that blacks are still going through today. Ida Gammon really stood up, spoke up, and put up with the consequences of her actions.

--by Cillo M.

Val Hart

Val Hart is a civil rights participant who made a impact.

One of the first primary values that we take on growing up is a sense of fairness .

Val Hart is a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement. He was involved with the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the Highlanders Research and Education Center, International Civil Service, and VISTA. He has experienced a situation with a bomb threat from the Ku Klux Klan. He went through many integration related situations, because he wanted to make the world a better place.

Throughout Mr. Hart's childhood, Val had to deal with hidden segregation. Ever since then, his childhood, Val Hart has been totally against segregation. Even though there was no direct segregation such as WHITE ONLY signs, there was segregation by the amount of black people in the city. In other words, the community itself was mostly made of whites. Believe it or not, Val Hart had never seen an African American person until he was in high school. Even in high school, there were only two African Americans in his entire class! In his twenties, Val discovered that his parents were segregationists, and after that his relationship with his parents could never be the same again. After Val's mother died, his father connected with him and mended the bond broken so many years before.

When Val was twenty one, he and his cousin attended the March on Washington. Mr. Hart said it was really the first time he participated in the Civil Rights Movement. Val Hart traveled to the March On Washington in his Volkswagen Beetle. When Val Hart arrived at the March on Washington he hung around at the church for awhile. When the march finally started, he was in the far back and he remembered that the overall mood of the march was happy and joyful. Val said, "I don't know, maybe the

other people there thought it different. But I recall it being a happy time, every body marching arm in arm, hand in hand." When Mr. Hart was marching he recalled it to be quite hot. When Val finally arrived at the Washington Monument and all the famous leaders spoke he said that his favorite quote was "One day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." He said he thought it was quite beautiful. After that Val got more involved with the Civil Rights Movement. He got involved with the Highlanders education organization, VISTA, and Civil Service.

When Val joined the Highlanders Education Organization he was assigned to a black ghetto in Cleveland that was segregated. Val explained it as, "Even though there were no signs the reality of it was that it was segregated. I mean the population was about 90-95% black." Val was assigned to a settlement house in the ghetto that he said was a filthy place. Val's job was to go door to door ask people for their permission to read children books to children on their property in the late afternoon. After he stopped reading and teaching literacy to the children who lived in a black ghetto he was assigned to rebuild a civil rights camp. When he was assigned to rebuild the civil rights camp he had just stopped reading and teaching literature to the children from the ghetto.

He and three other people from the highlanders association to were assigned work on the broken down camp. The camp was used by a group of protesters protesting for voting rights. Then the protesters were arrested, "For disturbing the peace, or some other bogus reason," said Mr. Hart. "The camp itself was just a platform to place tents on," Val stated. On three occasions, Val and the other people working on the camp were harassed.

Val Hart experienced things that many of us have only found in stories. He has been a part of the greatest movement in American history and deserves to be recognized for it. He is a very wise man and still believes that there are still many things that the U.S has to work on towards segregation. In the end, those are the people who deserve to be remembered, not the rich and wealthy, not strong and powerful, the wise and intelligent. The experienced and capable, the brave and worthy. Those are the people who deserve to be remembered.

—by Noah W.

David Karraker

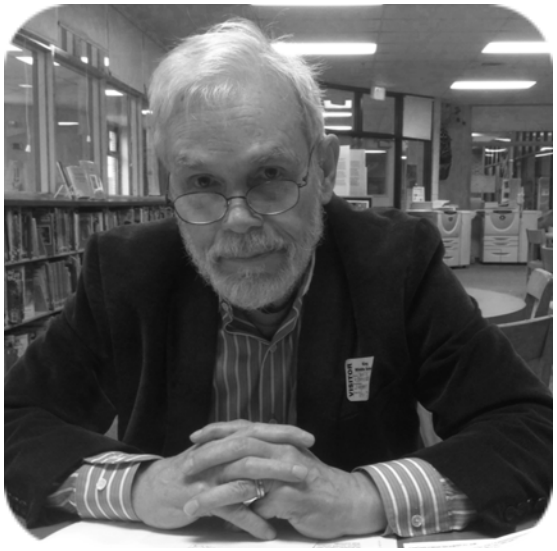
David Karraker worked in Chicago, Illinois, with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. He worked for many different causes such as desegregation in hospitals and neighborhoods. He also went undercover at race riots to evaluate the police. David's actions in Chicago helped make our country a better place now.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Living in Chicago in the 1960s was not easy, especially when you were African American or were fighting for African American rights. David Karraker experienced the Chicago Freedom Movement, a fight for open housing led by Al Raby and Martin Luther King, Jr. As a member of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations and a civil rights activist, David uncovered racist housing plans, fought for African American rights in housing and hospitals, and filed reports on race riots. He believes people deserve equal rights, no matter what their race is.

While working at a savings bank, David Karraker was given many responsibilities. He took "packages of suburban mortgages to banks downtown." David also mentioned that, "I really wasn't enjoying it," said David. He later found out that his bosses were investing in slum properties. This meant that they weren't spending much money on the maintenance of the property, but they were pricing them higher. "I was involved in it and I didn't even know." So he went to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, or CCHR. David then "wound up going to work for the city of Chicago," because he knew information about the real estate while not many other people did. That led to him working with slum properties and moving blacks into white neighborhoods.

After going to work for the CCHR, he found more information about the dual housing market and discrimination in housing. He recalls that "black people could only be made or sold houses within one block of the nearest black family," and "white people could live wherever they wanted." Also, African Americans almost always paid more money for housing than whites. Usually, when an African American tried to move into a dominantly white neighborhood, they were treated very poorly and were discriminated against. But, "Every once and a while, a black person would get brave and move a block into a white block," and that would make a big difference. Once an African American person moved into a predominantly white neighborhood,



others would follow. Soon, the white neighborhood inhabitants would move out and the neighborhood would become mainly black.

Working with housing wasn't the only thing that Mr. Karraker did; he also went undercover at race riots. "Our job was to try to evaluate the quality of the police, the way they handled these things," David said about going undercover a race riots. When they went to the riots they would dress up in a shirt and pants and walk around the neighborhood and pretend to be a person who lives in the neighborhood. David would watch how the police were handling the situation, and then he would file a report on the riot. At the riots that they had "riot police" on either side of the marchers and they

would try to control the people. It usually didn't work very well. At one riot David was standing 15 feet away when Martin Luther King, Jr. was hit in the head by a rock. "People were throwing rocks and stones and firecrackers" over the heads of the policemen. It was so bad that "The police were beating people to the ground." While working at the race riots, other things like working with discrimination in hospitals and filing complaints were going on too.

One of the other issues David worked at was discrimination in hospitals. Some hospitals wouldn't accept black patients. They had to go to one hospital six times to get them to give care to African American patients. David remembers that the administrator said, "I'm sick of talking to you people, you're bothering me too much." David said, "I'm down here because you're denying care to people." The response was, "try proving it." Mr. Karraker recalls that "This was the kind of stuff we were up against." While working in hospitals, many African Americans would come to the CCHR and file a complaint. "A black person would come in and file a complaint saying that they had been discriminated against when they tried to rent an apartment," said David. Then he would go and investigate and most often find out that the African American person had been discriminated against. They would tell the mayor, but he usually wouldn't do much because he wanted to be reelected. The mayor tried to please the majority of the population. A lot of these things changed when Al Raby became active and Martin Luther King, Jr. came to Chicago.

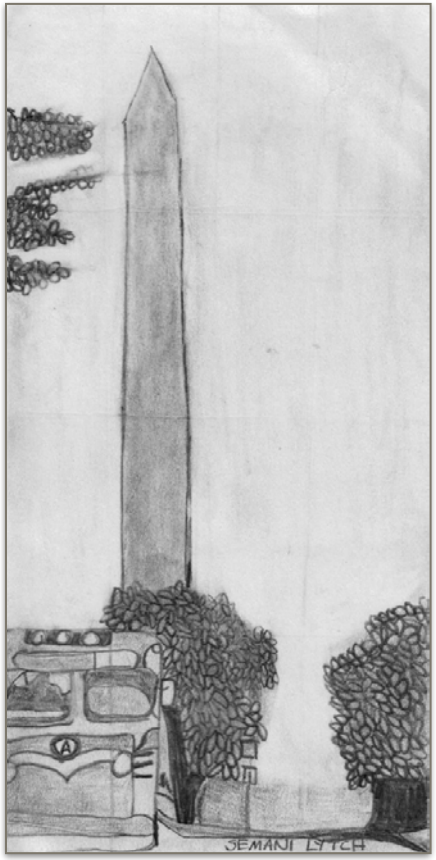
"There was a young black guy, a really interesting guy named Al Raby." David got to know Al because he ran for political office and David's wife ran his campaign. Growing up, Al was a street gang member and dropped out of high school. Later, Al joined the army. During that time he took high school courses through the mail. When he returned from the army, he went to teacher college. As a teacher, Al was upset about segregation in schools, so he organized the Chicago Freedom Movement to integrate schools. "When King decided to come to Chicago, he knew he had to talk to Raby, because Raby was already active." King and Raby had a disagreement though. Dr. King wanted to end slums and Al wanted to desegregate schools. So they compromised and agreed to work in open housing because it would help end slums and if neighborhoods were integrated, then schools would be to because children would go to a school based on what neighborhood they lived in. To reach the goal of integrating neighborhoods, many marches and protests were organized, often leading to race riots.

David attended the riots to see how well the police were handling them. At one riot, the people were moving so fast he couldn't find the participants. "I couldn't find the riot, we knew it was going on, we could hear sounds, but every time I went down the block, nothing was going on," recalled David. So he went and found his friend Mo Sullivan sitting in his car. Mo had been hit in the head by a rock. "I went and found Mo sitting in his car and he said, 'Karraker, why aren't you dead?'" David said. He also told us about how terrible it was, "It was just horrible." Other than events, associations affected David as well.

The American Nazi Party appeared in David's life on more than one occasion. One experience was when he was in Marquette Park; the chairman on the American Nazi Party was delivering a speech. "People were throwing dollar bills at him," and they were signing up to join the American Nazi Party. David recalled that, "I couldn't believe what I was seeing." Another experience he had with the American Nazi Party was when he was young. Growing up, David's parents were the only democrats on the block, and his dad was the only democrat at the bank. Next door lived a woman who was part of the American Nazi Party. This made it more difficult when they were selling their house. "The person who put the highest bid was a Jewish family," said David. Mr. Karraker's parents argued over telling the family about their neighbor. David remembers thinking, "I have the greatest parents in the world, no one else I know, their parents wouldn't even care." After deciding to tell the Jewish family, the family decided not to buy the house. The American Nazi Party was a recognizable factor in David's life.

As you can see, David had done much work for civil rights in his lifetime. From integrating neighborhoods to filing reports of misuse of power, Mr. Karraker made a difference. Today we can see how David's and the efforts of others has paid off. Listening to David speak, I could tell he was very passionate about this cause, and was glad that we were learning about this influential time period. "In a small very limited way, what we did was important progress," said David. Every small act in the Civil Rights Movement combined to make the movement successful.

--by Annie M.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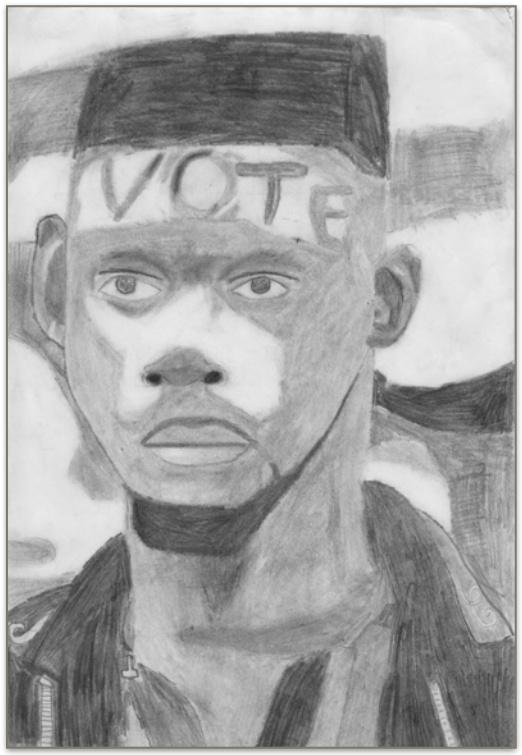
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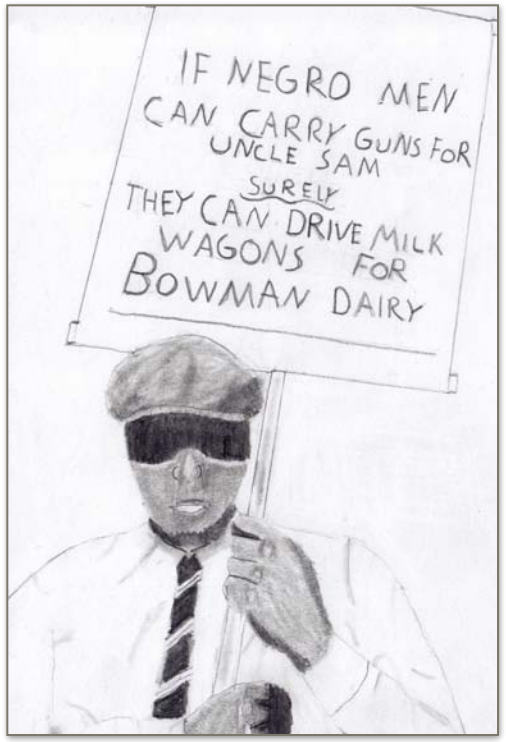
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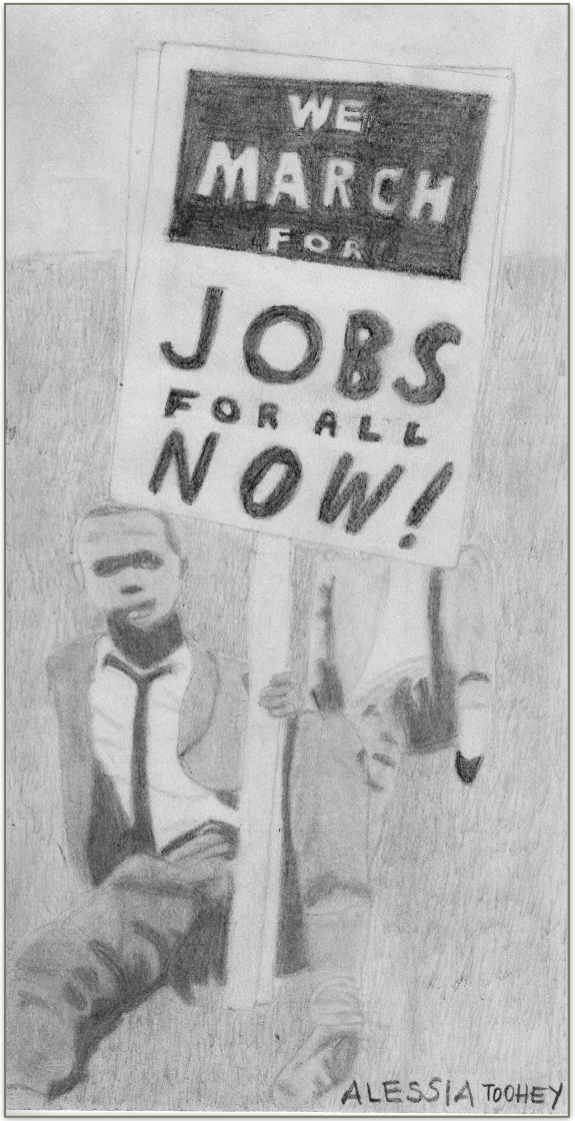
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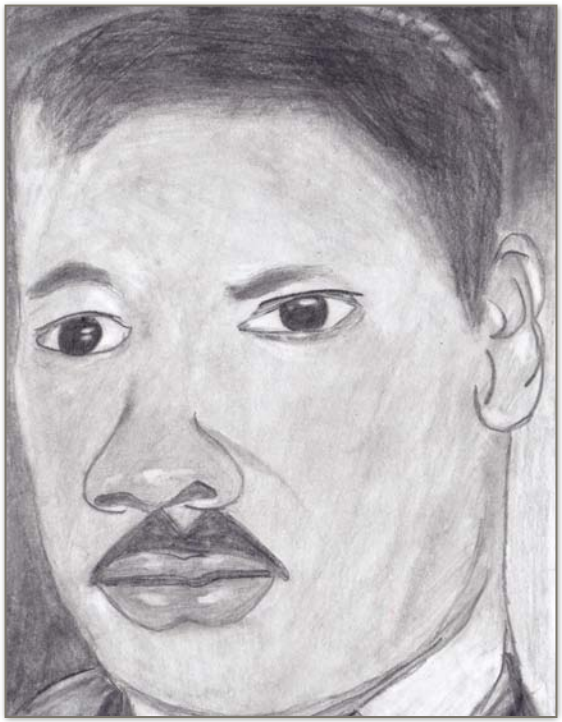


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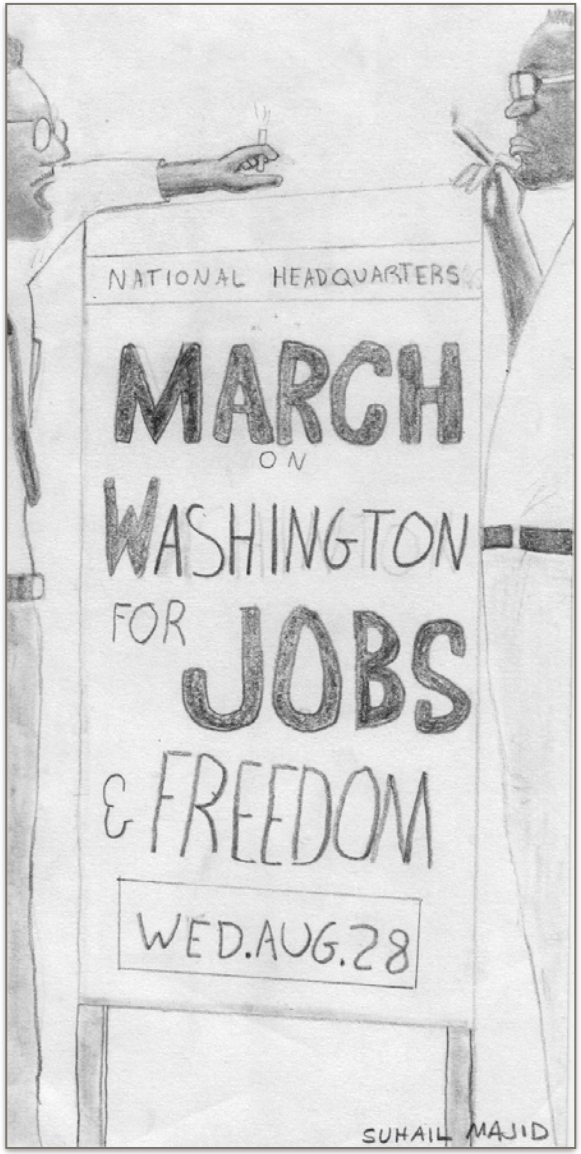
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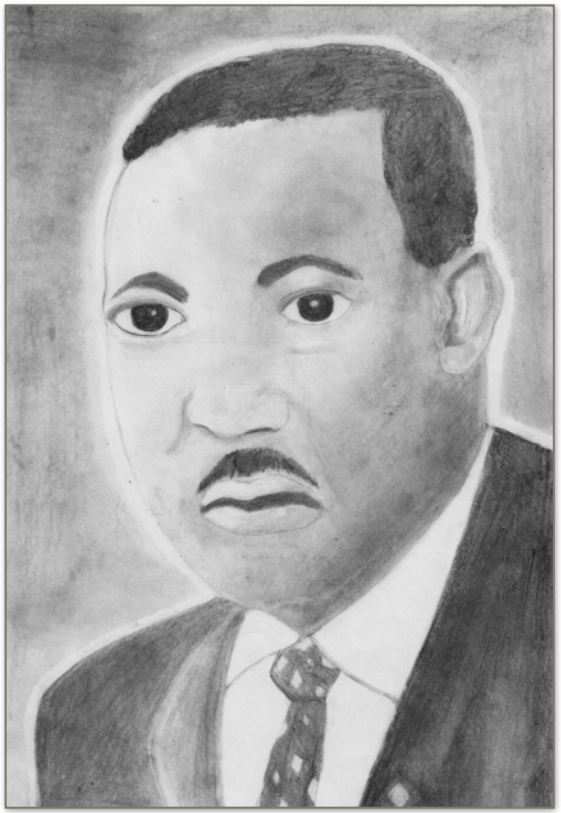

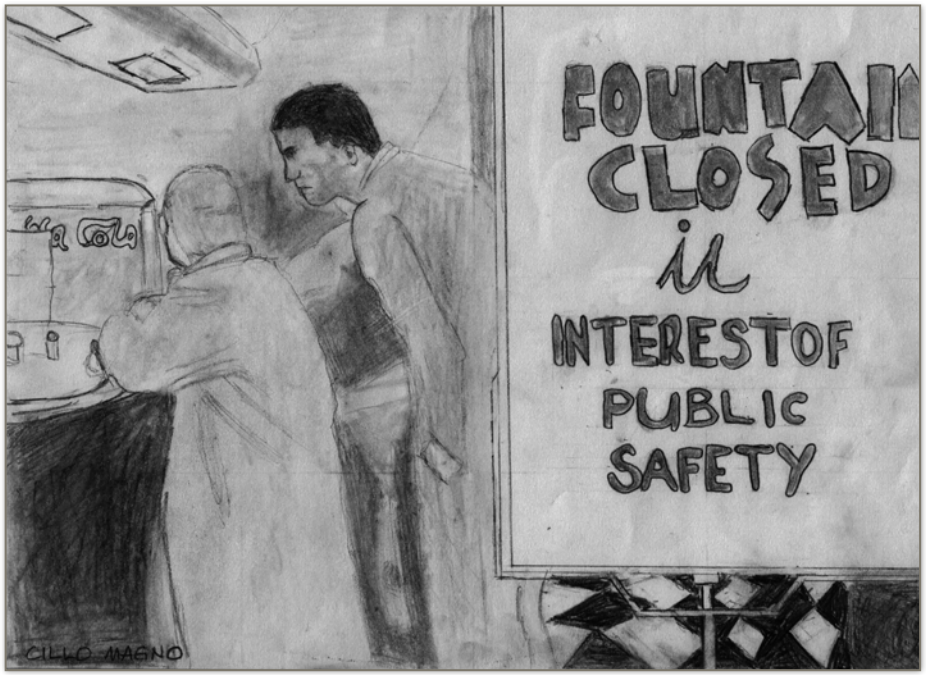
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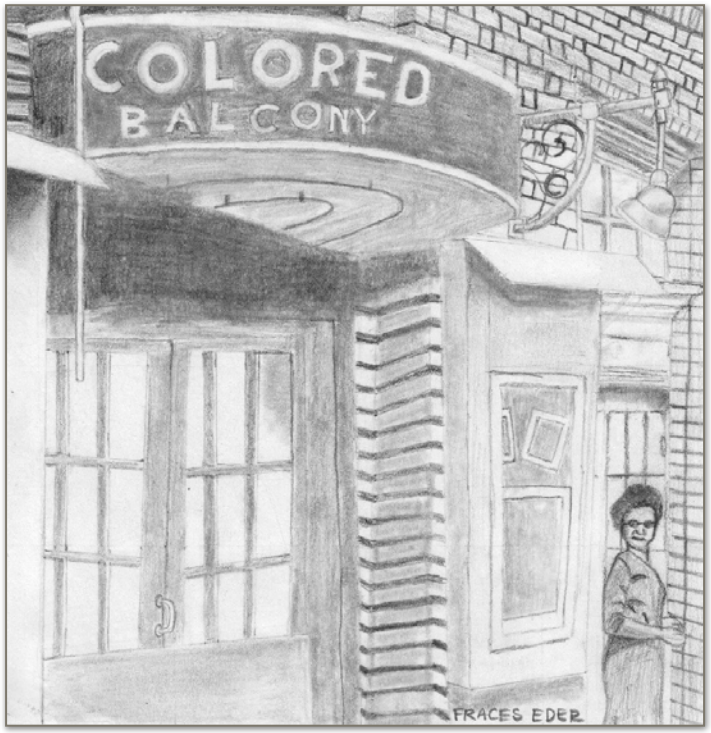
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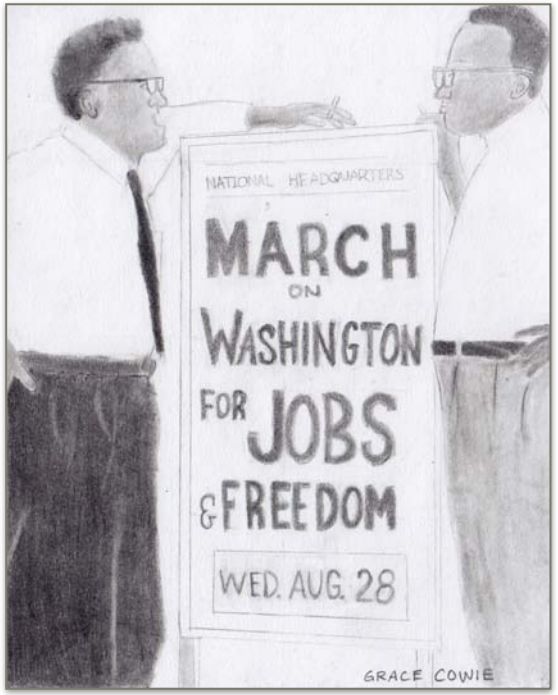
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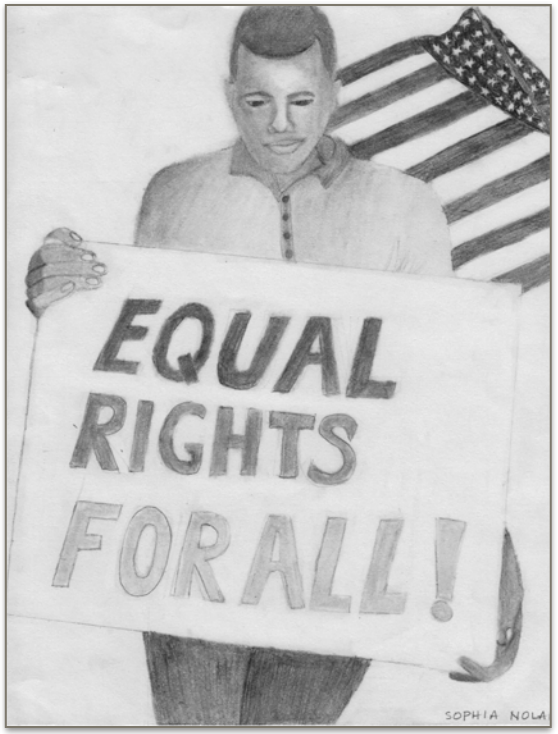
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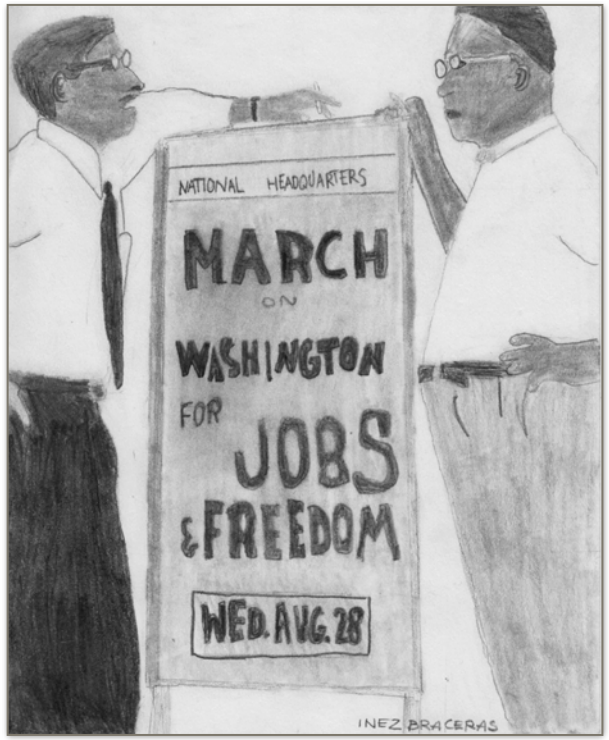
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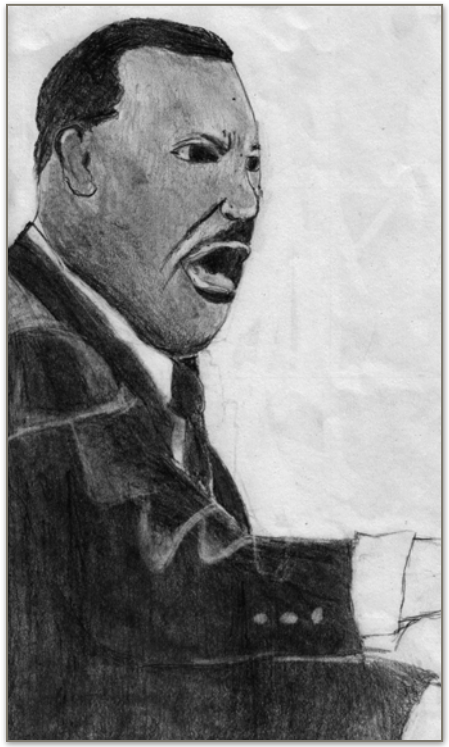


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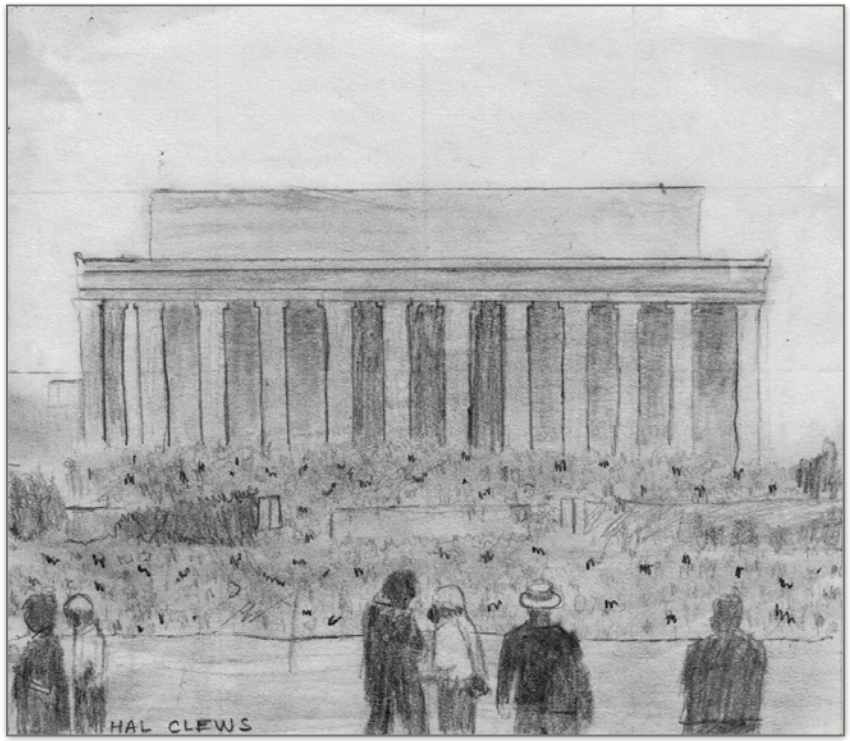
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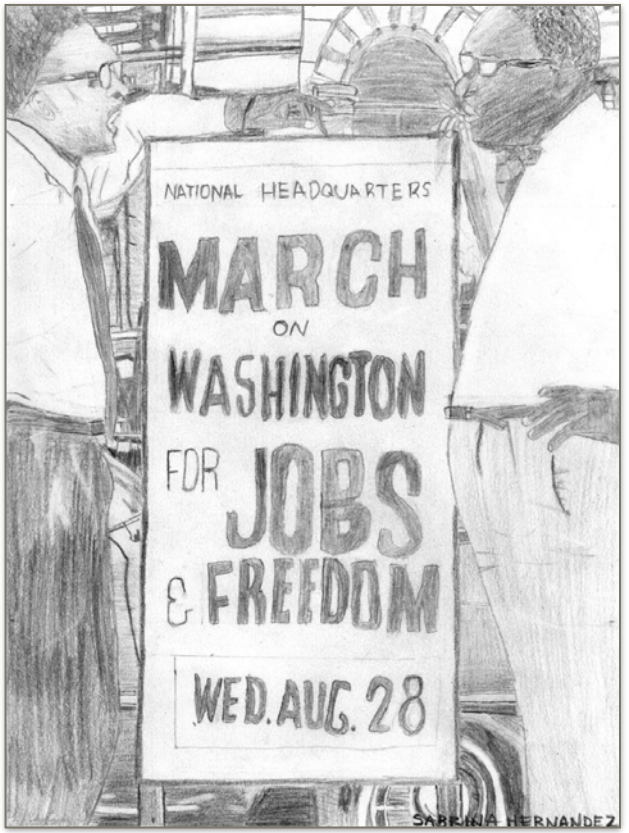
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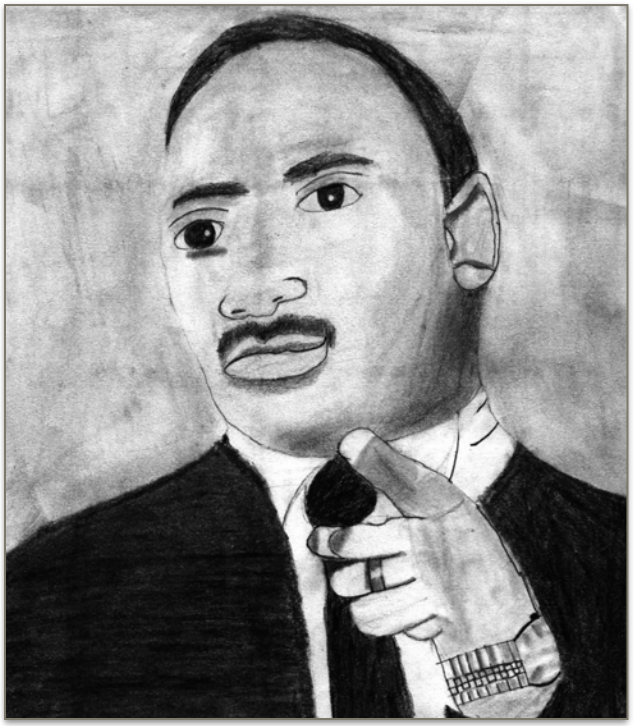

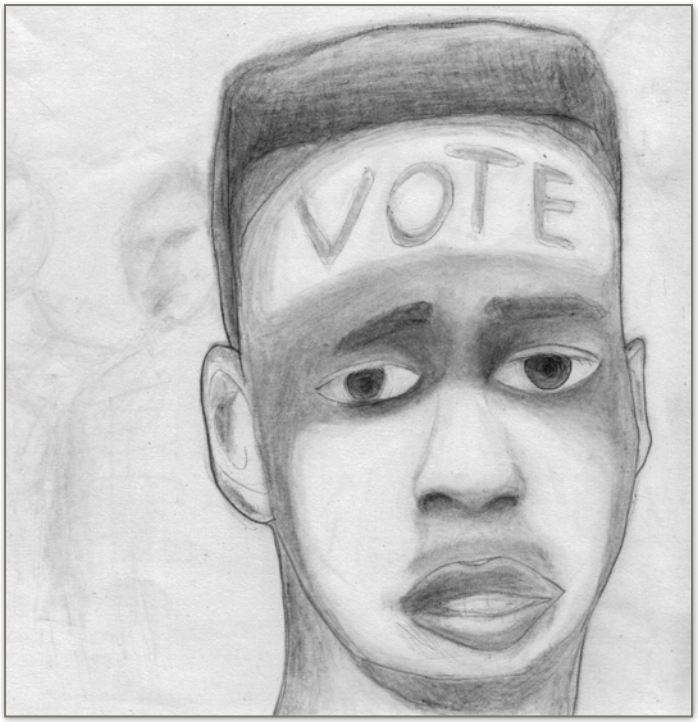
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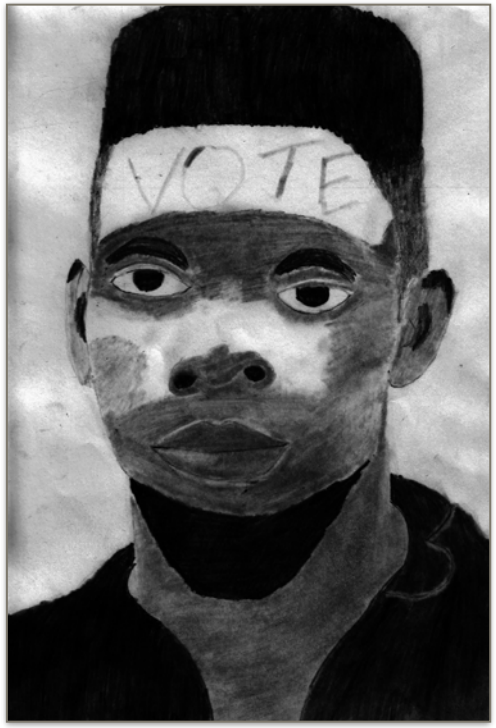
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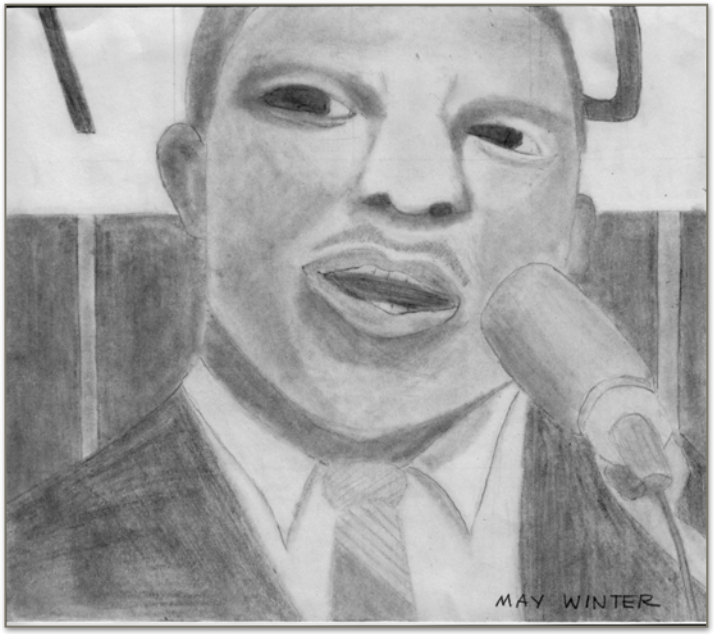

MAY WINTER

Angus King

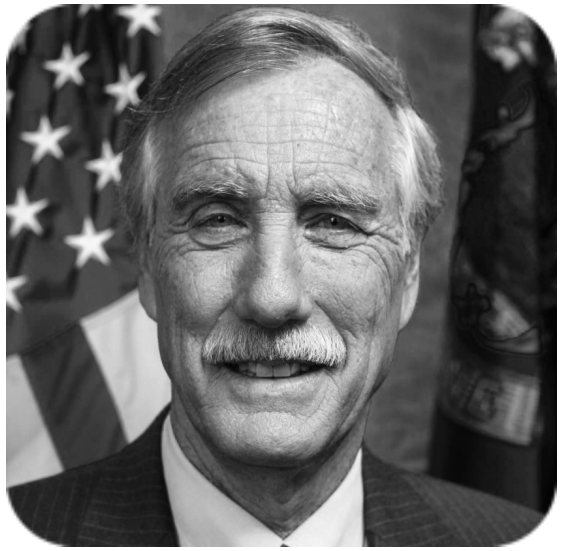
Angus King supported the Civil Rights Movement in many ways throughout his life. One way he did this was by attending the March on Washington during his college years to support the issue. Today he shows his support as a United States Senator, enforcing equal rights for all. He believes that access and opportunity are rights to be shared by everyone in the United States of America.

"*The whole idea of America is getting all the talent and ability and wisdom and energy we can from everybody.*"

"The secret of the success of America is access: The ability of anybody," said U.S. Senator, Angus King. Senator King has always supported equal rights, the Civil Rights Movement, and ideals such as this from when he was a child to today. Growing up in the segregation of Virginia in the fifties, he witnessed and understood the racial struggle of African Americans in the South. He attended a newly integrated high school in 1959, and later displayed his ongoing support by attending the March on Washington. His story is one that exhibits appreciation of hard times as well as support for the Civil Rights Movement.

Senator King's involvement in civil rights began early in his life, living in Alexandria, Virginia. "The key date was 1954, when the Supreme Court decided the famous case of Brown versus Board of Education." It was soon after that he began attending Hammond High, which became the second high school in Virginia to be integrated in 1959. The two who penetrated the color barrier in Alexandria were James and Patsy Ragland. Thankfully, they entered the school with few incidents. When asked about this time, King commented that he "remembered that year very clearly," and that as a high school student, civil rights and segregation was "part of my life growing up." After these experiences, he went to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. During the summer of 1963, he became interested in the March on Washington and decided to venture to the Capital. He had always been a member of his local church, and as he said, "the church was part of this movement." At this time, it was just as important to him, because it was "led by ministers and people of faith across the country." He said that it impacted things a lot and "even Dr. King, was a minister." His parents supported his involvement, because they were, "the kind of people who supported equal rights." Overall Angus King's youth, immersed in segregation, sparked his interest in the March on Washington.

Angus made his way to Washington DC and spent the night before the march, August 17, in a church with many other people who supported the same ideas as he did. When asked about his motives for taking part in the



March on Washington, he replied that it was "a desire to participate in a great event," which the march certainly was. However, at the time, many people were unsure of what the outcome might be. There was anxiety in Washington about the march, if there would be too much traffic, or if violence would occur or the protest would get out of hand. "Nobody knew how it was going to go. Nobody knew that it was going to be as big as it was, or as peaceful as it was, or that Dr. King would make one of the great speeches of the twentieth century," said Angus King when he expressed this. It *was* peaceful though, and people came from all over the country to march for jobs and freedom.

As the historic march began, Angus King felt as if he were in a river of people all heading through Washington, and all had "a great feeling of being united in a good cause." People trickled in "like little creeks, that run into bigger creeks, and bigger creeks, that run into a river, and the river was 14th Street." There, all the people came together into one gigantic mass of humanity, which King describes as, "like being at a football game with everyone rooting for the same team." It was a happy occasion, King recalled, "with lots of hugging and hand holding." Along with the good mood of the marchers, there were singers and performers to commemorate the day. Angus said that he especially remembers the singing group *Peter, Paul, and Mary* who sang the song *If I Had A Hammer* which was considered one of the more famous folk songs from the Civil Rights Movement. With over two-hundred and fifty thousand attendees, all with the same goal, all focusing on equality, all felt that they could succeed. When he recalled the impact of the movement, King said that "the march was certainly part of this."

Next, the multitude of marchers made their way to the Lincoln Memorial to hear the speeches of the day. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech especially stood out to Angus, and, reflecting on what it was like to experience that famous speech, he said, "Nobody comes on and holds up a sign and says 'listen up, this will be one of the great speeches of the twentieth century!'" When the speech began, "I heard a voice up in a tree, and the voice said 'Hey man, want a better view?'" and so Angus King went up and sat in a tree with a young African American man to watch Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 'I Have A Dream' speech. Recounting his view of the speech, King said that the speech was "fine, it was good, but it wasn't really *grabbing* people." Then, about two-thirds into the speech, Mahalia Jackson, who was standing behind Dr. King in the crowd, yelled to him, "'Tell them about the dream Martin. Tell them about the dream!'" So came the most well known part, and namesake, of the 'I Have A Dream' speech. Angus remembered that at that point, Dr. King put down his notes and began talking about 'The Dream'. It was then that he spoke of "freedom rolling down from the mountains of New Hampshire," and that his children would one day be "judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." "He rooted the speech in the values we all share as Americans," such as "all men are created equal." "Basically, he was saying to white America 'look, these are the values that you talk about, but they aren't applying to all. They aren't applying to everyone.'" The marchers watched this unfolding, and Angus King described the mall as "jam-packed with humanity for half a mile." Overall, Angus King believes that the success of Dr. King's speech set the tone for the march, and furthermore, for the future success of the Civil Rights Movement.

After the march, Angus King said he had "a feeling of walking on air." That's just how much a mark such an experience left on a person. He said, "You knew you had been at something great. You knew you had been at something that was important. You knew you had been at something that would change the country." He said that he remembered "the crush of people" and it could only be described as "exhilaration." Angus then had to return to the rest of America, where, as a child, he hadn't known a single African American his age. Reminiscing on that time, King said that "the Civil Rights Movement changed all that" and that "it's important to know people." He said that the Civil Rights Acts changed all of that, and now you *can* know people, and people as a whole understand each other more, even if racism still exists.

Angus King went back to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, far from the racial turmoil in the rest of the country. However, he "stayed connected with the movement" by working on a political campaign with an early fighter for civil rights. Explaining the Civil Rights Movement, King said, "That period in American history was a remarkable awakening of people of all walks of life to the fact that there were true injustices in our society." He said that we are still fighting for civil rights today, and, unfortunately, "prejudice is a part of human nature," so, "it's not something we can fight against, but something we must overcome." He also admitted that "we would be more successful if we were more open to different people." But he also believes we have come a very long way since the 1960s. "We have an African American president. I can tell you, in 1963, this was a possibility that was not remotely thought of." Also, he says that "Martin Luther King, Jr. was the right man at the right time." and he helped lead the movement to success. King finalized his opinion by stating that the movement had achieved its goals because, in this day and age, "Anybody who wants to work hard, and apply themselves, and partake of their energy and passion can really change the world."

From 1995 to 2003, Angus King was the Governor of Maine, and in 2013, he became a United States Senator. He still believes in equal rights, and remembers the March on Washington as a joyful turning point for the better in our nation's history. "The more we open up to people, to people from other countries, to people who have different ideas, or people who have different backgrounds, or different abilities, that's what strengthens our society." -- by Eve F.

The Honorable Judge Kermit Lipez

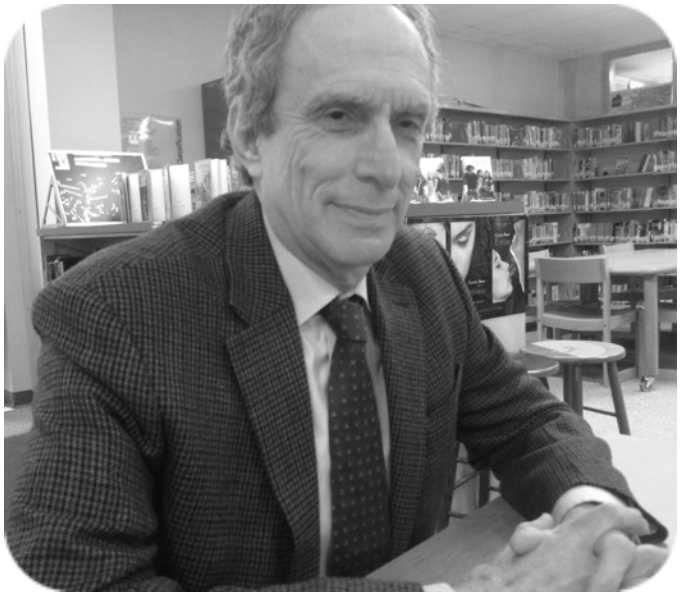
Judge Kermit Lipez is a well educated man who helped support equal opportunities for everyone. He was involved in the Civil Rights Movement, the March on Washington, and works in our justice system. Judge Lipez also helped Governor Kenneth Curtis with the establishment of the Maine Human Rights Commission here in Maine.

"*Separate but equal was completely unfounded*."

Judge Kermit Lipez has many amazing memories of the Civil Rights Movement, especially the March on Washington. Mr. Lipez was born in central Pennsylvania. As young boy, he was inspired to become a judge. Seeing other children treated poorly, Mr. Lipez committed to make a difference. He wanted children in the minority to have a better education, like the other white children. One summer during his years at Yale he went to one particular black college, Dillard College, and tutored students so they could have more opportunities. He would also go to other states to work on the laws and see if they were being carried out fairly. His job was to stop discrimination in any way possible. Mr. Lipez has always supported civil right issues and was a part of supporting a change through the legal system.

Judge Kermit Lipez experienced many things growing up during his childhood. Mr. Lipez was born in Philadelphia but grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania. Mr. Lipez said that "segregation was very damaging both psychologically, economically, and physically to the children who were victims of it." In his neighborhood there were no minority children, but he was still aware of the problems. "It stamped the minority children who were separated as inferior." This did lasting damage to the children.

As a young boy, Kermit witnessed discrimination and wanted to start a career in law. When he came out of high school he went to a college named Haverford. After Haverford, he went to Yale Law School. That's when he began working with civil rights issues. He went to Dillard College in New Orleans that summer to work with black students. He went there to provide tutoring to students so that they



would have more opportunity in life. After graduating from Yale Law School with his law degree, he went to work for the Department of Justice. When he was with the Department of Justice he went to other states working on civil right issues.

On August 28, 1963, more than 200,000 marchers gathered by the Washington Monument, where the march began. It was a diverse crowd: black and white, rich and poor, young and old, Hollywood stars and everyday people. Despite the fears, there were no problems,

no anger, nothing but joy. There was amazing protection throughout the march. People also thought what happened in Birmingham that spring could happen in Washington D.C. as well. Washington D.C was on the border of Virginia, part of the Southern States. In the summer of 1963, Judge Lipez was working in New York City. He rode a bus from New York City to Washington D.C. The mood going to the march was apprehensive. Some people were concerned because they thought something might go wrong because this was a major event.

When he got to the march, thousands and thousands of people came from all over the country. The march started very early in the morning. The 1963 March on Washington attracted an estimated 250,000 people for a peaceful demonstration to promote civil rights and economic equality for African Americans. Kermit Lipez remembers a lot of people singing Bob Dylan and other famous singers. He said he also participated in the singing with the thousands of others, but by the time Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the podium it was a very long day and people were very tried. There were six leaders that were going to speak at the March on Washington that day: John Lewis, James Farmer, Philip Randolph and Roy Wilkins and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He volunteered to be last. Martin Luther King, Jr prepared a speech, but people were getting restless and from behind the podium somebody said, "Say your dream Martin." His speech shook America. His mission was to get the whites on their side. He wanted to bring everybody together.

Judge Kermit Lipez has many memories about the Civil Right Act passing. Despite Kennedy's assassination in November of 1963, his proposal culminated in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson just a few hours after House approval on July 2, 1964. When the Civil Right Act was passed, the judge was at law school learning about how laws were passed down. The Civil Right Act was signed in Washington D.C.

After law school, Kermit Lipez worked in the Department of Justice in the Civil Right Division. He didn't work alone, but he worked with dozens of other young lawyers. Most of their jobs were in the South. Two were assigned to work in two states. Kermit Lipez and his partner were assign to Kentucky and Tennessee. They were looking at discrimination in employment and civil right issues in those particular states.

After coming to live in Maine, Judge Kermit Lipez set up a task force that recommended the creation at the Maine Human Rights Commission. He started it with help from others. When he came to Maine there was discrimination, but not as bad as the south. The Maine Human Rights Commission was responsible for addressing those issues. He worked with the Governor of Maine, Kenneth Curtis, who worked with Judge Kermit to accomplish this. The Maine Human Rights Commission helps stop discrimination in the State of Maine.

In conclusion, Judge Kermit Lipez had many incredibly amazing memories about the March on Washington, the Maine Human Right Commission, the Civil Rights Division, the Civil Rights Act, and his childhood. The March on Washington was a big success. It made a huge difference and now it is a very famous event. As you can see, Judge Kermit Lipez has always worked for civil right issues and was a part of creating a change through the legal system.

--by Maryan M.

Kim Matthews

Being born in Virginia during the Civil Rights Movement, Kim Matthews has earned the title of a civil rights activist. Throughout her life, she has shown her compassion for the movement by taking part in picketing, sit-ins and legal cases. One of the biggest moments in Kim's life was when she went to the March on Washington. After that, she still wanted to make a difference, and so she went to law school to become a lawyer.

"*It was thrilling and exciting to feel you were a part of it*."

Kim Matthews was born in Virginia to a family of civil rights activists in the times of racial and gender discrimination. Throughout her life she has taken part in many protests for freedom. She has seen and participated in sit-ins, marches, law cases, and she even saw her own mother getting arrested for the freedom of others. She has earned the title of being determined, for never stopping and keeping her eyes on the prize.

When Kim was little, her town was segregated. Schools were segregated and restaurants were "white only," but it wasn't expressed as a big thing, so segregation wasn't being put right in your face. Behind the scenes, there was a deep hatred for black people, which Kim and her mother both ended up fighting against. At that time, much of America was segregated by whether your skin was black or white. For an example, the game of Cowboys and Indians where kids would run around tagging each other, was turned into Yankees and Rebels referring to the Civil War and that blacks were going against the laws of America. This shows the divide between kids with un-racist parents and racist parents, or as Kim recalls, "instead of playing Cowboys and Indians, some people played Yankees and Rebels, and that was sort of the dividing line along people that came from the southern part of the country and the northern part of the country."

One of Kim's biggest role-models was her mother. Her mother was a prodigious civil rights activist and took part in protests in Virginia. Her mother picketed stores before Kim started to protest, in fact her mother was so dedicated to the cause that "she volunteered to be arrested" at one of the protests. When Kim wanted to get arrested at one of the protests, she was advised not to because she was about to apply to colleges. After her mother was arrested, the newspaper put all the names and addresses of the people that got arrested which caused some worry for people about what extremists would

do with that information. Kim only remembers one incident where she and her mother were in their house and they saw a man with a dog walking around their house, checking it out. Eventually, the man walked away to his car. Then, Kim and her mother got into their car and followed the man to a grocery store, parked, got his license plate code, and then they called the cops and reported the man. It turned out the man was part of the Nazi party, so she described the police that day as, "cooperative," because they listened to Kim and her mom and responded quickly.

One of the main ways Kim would protest was picketing. Picketing is when a group of people will find an establishment that was segregated and stand in front of their store. In the town where Kim lived, all of the movie theaters

were owned by the same man, and that man did not want black people going to his theater. Kim said, "We picketed every other Sunday for eleven months." Eventually when the owner of the theaters saw his profits dropping, he let black people go to the theaters. When Kim was a teenager she had her first experience with picketing. It was summer and her friends took a trip to an amusement park, and she saw a group of people picketing outside. So she decided to stay outside of the park and picket while half of her friends went on the rides. After that, she started to take part in more and more protests, and eventually she took part in about three sit-ins. Thankfully no violence broke out and the owner of the lunch counter changed his policy pretty quickly about black people sitting at the counters. When Kim picketed the theaters every other Sunday, sometimes Nazi Veterans would counter-picket them in Nazi uniforms. At that time, the Virginia Legislature had a law saying that picketing was against the law in Virginia if the purpose was to damage the business financially or physically, which caused a few arrests.

In Kim's town there was a divide between people that were racist and integrationists, and many things showed that divide. Like yankees and rebels and the Nazi Party. Stores were a grey area because either the owners themselves were racist or they were worried that if they integrated their establishments that people would not want to go to there store or theater. Now what we do know is that the theater owner was racist because all of the theaters were segregated, not even one had a sign that said "colored." In terms of the lunch counter owner, the reason he didn't integrate the lunch counters is because his company probably told him to keep the counters segregated and he didn't want to get fired. That was most likely the reason that the other stores didn't integrate.

After WWII there were still people that believed in Hitlers ways and lived the rest of their lives with that belief. Not surprisingly they created a group of people that all believed in the culture of the Nazis and went around trying to cause fear. One thing they did was counter-picket protesters like Kim. Their leader was Lincoln Rockwell. He would dress his kids up in Nazi uniforms and parade them in front of his house which, "made people more afraid of the Nazis than the kind of people I was with," remembers Kim. One thing that lightened the situation was that the police had no tolerance for the Nazis and would stop them if they could.

The police in Kim's town were against, or were forced to be against racist people. As Kim said "they were cooperative" and they also gave Kim and her fellow protesters one less thing to worry about (except for the fact that they could legally arrest them for picketing). Kim says, "Once I became involved with the picketing and sit-ins with blacks at lunch counters, then it became a thing where friends knew about it." Even though the police wanted to stop protesting for the sake of peace and a promise of no violence, they were always trying to stop the Nazi Party from causing fear in the town which made Kim and her friends able to keep protesting,"The police protected us instead of being the ones that went after us."

One of the biggest days in Kim's life was when she went to the March on Washington. As a teenager, who had worked at a government agency as a clerk typist, she knew the area very well. That is because her office was very close to the Lincoln Memorial. It turned out that her father went to the march too but Kim didn't go with him. She first got on a bus and then marched for four to five hours before any speeches were made. But even today, She still finds Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech the most amazing and compelling speech out of all of the speeches. Even when we asked her what speech she responded to the most she said, "Martin Luther King's, even then."

In conclusion, Kim Matthews has devoted so much of her life to being an advocate for the freedom of others. No matter what, She has never stopped doing what she believes in whether segregation was in America or not. Today we thank the people like Kim for fighting for the freedom of their future and our beginning. She has done all kinds of protests from sit-ins to law cases while trying to avoid the Nazi Party and the police, with everyone beside her from her friends, to strangers, to her mother.

—by Vincent T.

John McCall

John McCall was only a young man when he first got involved in the movement, but his participation in the March on Selma was one that set the course for the rest of his life.

"*I can never truly understand what their lives have been like, but maybe their lives can be different if this accomplishes what we had hoped it would*."

"We are witnessing a chapter that will change the world." John McCall knew this as he marched alongside 2,500 others at the March on Selma. He was born and raised in the North and had never encountered segregation as severe as the South. Nonetheless, McCall knew of the controversies and had the drive to start his involvement, because after all, "two thirds of winning is just showing up."

As a child, Mr. McCall grew up in a very religious setting. Both of his parents were ministers just outside of Portland, Oregon, near a college campus. It was a tradition every Sunday, for international students to join the McCalls for a midday meal. John says, "I grew up for years, and years, and years, learning to listen to other peoples stories, hearing about other parts of the world where I didn't know anything. I think more than anything that taught me to care about being a citizen of the world and not just a little town." This influence, along with the religious background his parents set, played a key role in John McCall's involvement in the March on Selma.

Even before he got involved in the movement, Mr. McCall had the notion change was needed. At seventeen, he was a year ahead of his studies and ready to start college on an academic probation due to his young age. When applying to colleges, he looked very seriously at Talladega, Tugaloo, and other historically black colleges in the South. "With some regret I accepted that it probably wasn't the time to start integrating a school that was historically black," John said regretfully. Instead of a historically black college, Mr. McCall started at Beloit College in Wisconsin. Although he didn't get his chance to help impact integration, John soon started to make a difference.

On March 7, 1965, a small crowd of college students gathered in the campus chaplain's home to receive more information on Selma, Alabama, and the events transpiring. Mr. McCall was among that crowd, and once the decision

was made to send a group of students to the march, John had his fingers crossed he drew a long straw. Due to his young age, McCall was not yet legal so he needed his parents permission to participate, which in itself was a struggle. After several phone calls however, he was given permission to attend. On such short notice the main issue with going to the march was money. Many people on campus, such as fraternity and sorority houses and professors, gave money out of their pockets to help the students get to Birmingham. At midnight of the seventh, eight unchaperoned college students from Beloit, Wisconsin, borrowed a car and drove to O'Hare

International Airport to board a plane to Birmingham. McCall recalls, "I didn't have a toothbrush, I didn't have a change of clothes. I remember I was wearing blue jeans and a denim jacket. I wasn't prepared to travel, I probably had three dollars in my pocket." After arriving at Selma via shuttle bus, Mr. McCall and two of his peers stayed with a black host family the night prior to the march. The host family was one of many that hosted out of state marchers; their kindness left a great impact on McCall. The group hardly slept, as remembered by McCall. "We were trembling, both so excited and so afraid." On the ninth, John joined hundreds of others on the second day of the three day march to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. He described the atmosphere set by his fellow marchers as "hopeful and fearful." McCall said you could tell how badly people wanted the march to succeed just by the way they walked and sung. John McCall's participation in the March on Selma is one that influenced the rest of his life.

For the majority of his life, Mr. McCall has had a basic theme: "If you're in the right place, representing the right thing, it will make a difference." With this in mind, it seemed only natural for McCall to jump on the chance to participate in the march. This theme continued when he pledged his life to the Lord by becoming a minister. John says, "I imagine that we are all brothers and sisters, no matter where you come from." It was his strong beliefs in representing and doing the right thing that helped him make such an important decision to attend the march.

Not only was the March on Selma an eyeopener for the nation, but it was also a guiding hand for John McCall. "My heart was changed, or at least it was taken further in the direction I felt in my heart of hearts," John reminisced. The march was a "catalyst" of sorts. For McCall it confirmed the path he took to ministry. It also turned John McCall to the idea of going out into the world and joining a group such as SNCC (Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee) or NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). His drive to participate and make a difference in the movement after the march was so strong, "it made book learning a real struggle, coming back from the march, then trying to turn in papers and projects when all I really wanted to do was go and try to make a difference." The March on Selma was an important milestone that marked a solidification of Mr. McCall's future.

Religion was a major part of John McCall's early and adult life. Both of his parents were ministers and even before he entered college, John knew he wanted something to do with the church. The March on Selma was the main turnaround, helping McCall on the path of becoming a full minister. After getting a theological education, Mr. McCall was ordained in 1971. He has served in South Portland, Maine, for twenty four years. The march pushed him towards ministry, and it was his dedication to the church that gave John McCall the chance to continue to make a difference.

After his epiphany at the march, John McCall continued to work in civil rights. Directly following his involvement in the March on Selma, Mr. McCall talked as an alumni to the pupils of his old high school. He also helped successfully integrate a college fraternity. During his time in South Portland, John was very forward in his advocation for same sex marriage and turned the church into one where anyone was free to be themselves. McCall continues to work in the anti-torture movement and the peace movement. McCall will continue to do what he can to make his community a better place.

John McCall had the option to stay on his college campus and not get involved that March of 1965, but he did and that was what mattered. To this day he continues on the same principles as when he volunteered for the March on Selma "If you're in the right place, representing the right thing, it will make a difference." Now, as a retired minister, Mr. McCall might be making that difference in a quieter setting, but his influence on the movement and the events that transpired will always be present.

-- by Ava G.

June McKenzie

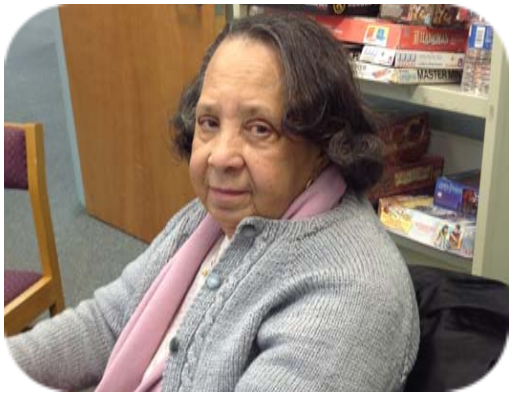
June McKenzie is a courageous woman who helped African Americans and played a role in the Civil Rights Movement. She helped people here in Portland, Maine, while she was working in the NAACP. The major problem at the time was housing discrimination, and she helped African Americans with that problem. She has served her community by keeping the Civil Rights Movement alive. .

" *If one person is not treated right, then the battle is still on*."

June McKenzie was born and raised in Portland, Maine. At a young age she experienced segregation and discrimination. June felt like she was the only black person in the world because she was the only African American child in her grade. She had a couple of white friends while she was growing up, but they turned out not to treat her equally. She tried to find friends who had the same skin color as her. Later she realized that everyone should be treated equally no matter what the color of their skin. From all this she learned "you have treat people like you want to be treated, no matter the hateful people." Later on she became involved in the Civil Rights Movement to fight for freedom and to give the future generations a brighter and better future.

Charles Frederick Eastman, June McKenzie's great grandfather, was involved in civil rights. Charles helped runaway slaves get to Canada. There was a system in the 1850s called the Underground Railroad, which helped slaves get to safety without getting caught. He was a mariner, a barber, as well as the owner of a second hand clothing trade. He would bring slaves on his ship, let them clean up, give them new clothes, and a haircut. He also changed their identities in the process of getting them to Canada safely. Charles did more for the poor fugitive slaves escaping from slavery than any other person in Maine. According to June, Charles Frederick Eastman is remembered for his bravery in doing good deeds for people he didn't know.

Growing up was tough and June found it difficult to get by, mostly because of the discrimination she experienced in elementary school. One day when June was arguing with an Italian classmate, he called her bad names. That pulled her trigger, causing her to punch the boy on his nose and made him bleed. For this, June was sent to the principal's office, When she got there the principal was surprised.



June said, "He was shocked that I would retaliate, I told him, I can only take it so much everyday when they call me names." On another occasion, she overheard a friend who had been asked if he was going to invite June to an event he and his friends had planned. He replied, "No I am not taking her, she is black." After that June said, "That hurt me more than anything in my childhood, because I thought he was my friend."

June McKenzie's education was very important in her life, and everything was going smoothly except for one thing. People tried to demote her but she said "No matter what people do to you never sink down to their level." She kept going on her journey and though some teachers were with her along the way, others went behind her back and told her friends not play with her because she is black. June even said, "You know some friends are real when they stay with you throughout the tough times and the hard times."

After high school, June had to find a job in order to make money to go to college. June worked at the waterfront packing fish in the summer. She had a hard time finding a job since the only job an African American could get was running an elevator or doing house-keeping. She saw people working in a store and they had lower grades than she did in high school. They only got those jobs because they were white. She was frustrated as she worked so hard in high school to get a good job when she finished, but wasn't able to because of the color of her skin. June said to herself' "If I don't look for work I will never appreciate it." That gave her courage to keep on looking for a job. She finally got one working at the Casco Bank building and at a department store.

At one point when June's house was burned down to the ground, she had a hard time finding a new house to rent. After that happened she went to people she had known all her life to ask them if she could rent their house. They said, "June, we have known you for a long time, and we know you are nice and all, but the renters will make a big fuss out of it." June was depressed as she responded to the landlord "But I need a place for my kids." June never thought this could happen to her until then. Because of this experience, she joined the NAACP and worked really hard to make sure no other African American would face this problem.

The NAACP was and is a big organization in all states and cities across the United States. NAACP stands for National Association of Advancement of Colored People. The NAACP in Portland, Maine, helped colored people with the housing discrimination, preparing marches, and protests. They threw breakfasts when powerful leaders of the Civil Rights Movement came to visit in Maine. These breakfasts were focused on raising money for marches or protests in the future. While June was in the NAACP, she was a vice-president, secretary, and a treasurer. June went to protests to help people fight their inequalities during the Civil Rights Movement. She fought to make a difference in Maine, and also helped other states with the segregation that was going on at the time. June said that "people say they are never going to change, but they change little by little."

When June McKenzie was in the NAACP she met a lot of famous civil right activists such as John Lewis, Coretta King, Jesse Jackson, and some members of The Little Rock Nine. She met all these people at the breakfasts the NAACP had to raise money. When asked about how June felt about Martin Luther King and John F Kennedy's death she said, "I was very depressed, I thought I was going to die too." Dr King was her hero because he believed in non-violence. When he died it felt like they killed the Civil Rights Movement for her. It was even worse when they assassinated president John F. Kennedy. When June was asked about how their mindsets changed the world, she said "their mindsets changed the world when people started believing in non-violence, and that the world would finally change." June was also asked how she felt about the Children's March footage. She replied, "It was horrifying and terrible when they released dogs on those children, and sprayed them with fire hoses."

When June looks at the progress the Civil Rights Movement has made, she admires the work. June still lives in Portland, Maine. She has eight children and they are all grown up. She tells them how tough it was in the early 1900s and teaches them not to treat anybody differently than they want to be treated.

—by Divine I.

Alan Mills

Alan Mills participated in much of the Civil Rights Movement. Some of the notable protests he participated in were the Route 40 Rides and the March On Washington. During these events he learned that all people are equal and deserve to be treated like human beings. Overall his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement was very important and helped blacks to gain equal rights.

"*We thought 'we are gonna change this world,' and it took a long time but we did.*"

Not many people who are still alive can say that they helped make the world the way it is today. One of those people is Alan Mills. Alan was a person that was dedicated to all people having equal rights. He grew up during the 40's and 50's in New York City. After he left his home in New York he went to participate in many civil rights protests. After having an exciting time in Baltimore doing the Route 40 Rides, he continued to have an intriguing experience at the March on Washington. These experiences affected Alan Mills and he has a very interesting story to tell. Overall, Alan Mills contributed to the gaining of rights of many people alive today.

Although the story of how Alan Mills was involved in the Civil Rights Movement is very interesting, what lead up to him participating in these historic events is equally riveting. Particularly during his early life Mr. Mills had multiple inspirations. Growing up Alan Mills was in a Jewish family, and although he had no direct family in the Holocaust, he realized that prejudices can be a horrible thing. When he was young he would go to work with his father. His father worked at a pharmacy where people, regardless of race would go to get their medications. Through this experience he met multiple people and began to realize that all men were created equal. As he grew up, he continued to find inspiration in many things, from people, to actions to events. Some of the people he had as role models include Martin Luther King Jr., Bayard Rustin, and James Farmer. Participating in the movement, he felt like he would be able to make a change for his country. He remembers thinking, "We knew something had to change," and being able to bring about this change gave a great feeling of inspiration to do anything to accomplish this goal. Along with this, the overall experience of being involved with something on this large of a scale gave him a feeling of excitement. These are a few of the reasons that Alan Mills was inspired to participate in the Civil Rights Movement.

Along with Alan's inspirations his early life also played a large part in his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Along with being Jewish his parents were also quite liberal. For this reason throughout his life they always supported him. In the part of New York City that he grew up he

recalls, "Growing up was a very white experience." He remembers his elementary school being very segregated and although high school was a different experience there was still very little race mixing. He recalls, "But then when I went to college... the diversity was there." When he went to a more integrated college, he realized that many African Americans weren't getting the respect that they deserved. It was there that Alan Mills became more involved with the Civil Rights Movement. More specifically, Congress of Racial Equality.

Also know as C.O.R.E, this civil rights group was founded in 1942. The head of C.O.R.E, a man named James Farmer, was also a personal role model of Alan's. Throughout the Civil Rights Movement C.O.R.E was involved in multiple protests and projects. One of the protests that Alan Mills was involved in with C.O.R.E were the Route 40 Rides. Along with

the Route 40 Rides C.O.R.E also was involved in the Freedom Rides, or the "Deep South Rides," although Alan Mills did not participate in these. After this C.O.R.E participated in a number of events including the March On Washington, the Greensborough sit-ins, Freedom Summer, and the integration of Chicago schools. C.O.R.E is still around today and is focusing on black economic development.

Although Alan would go on to do many things with C.O.R.E., the first thing he did with them was the Route 40 Rides. While he was at Hunter college in New York and was first working with the civil rights group he decided to get involved. During this time when segregation was still very much going on, many black diplomats would be traveling along Route 40, which at that time was the major road between New York City and Washington D.C. However because of their skin color, they weren't being served. C.O.R.E decided that this should not be allowed and started the Route 40 Rides. He recalls that the spot that they would meet was a church in Baltimore. They would then get into a car with three whites and three blacks and drive down the highway. He recalls they would, "try to eat in the restaurants along Route 40 and never were served." He also remembers that many things, other than not being served happened to him, "there was violence, and I was never arrested but friends of mine were." He recalls some people being angry that blacks were trying to integrate their restaurants and responded negatively. On another occasion when the riders were still in Baltimore they went down to the jail to sing freedom songs such as "We Shall Overcome" and "This Little Light of Mine." While they were singing, he remembers that the people inside of the jail started to sing back. "It was quite a moving experience." Overall, the Route 40 Rides were a important part of both the Civil Rights Movement and Alan Mill's life.

After protesting on Route 40, Alan headed back to his home city. Besides growing up in New York Alan Mills also did some civil rights work there. One of his first civil rights experiences in the city was going to a debate between Bayard Rustin and Malcolm X. At this time Malcolm was considered by some as the "bad guy" for his segregationist views. In this instance Bayard Rustin the civil rights leader who was his opponent, was arguing for integration and that all men were equal. Because of this, Mills was supporting Bayard Rustin. After going to the debate, Mr. Mills continued to do some work with C.O.R.E. At the time, he explained there was discrimination going on even in New York. For example, if an African American wanted to buy an apartment, they might be told that the place had already been taken, but if a white wanted to buy the apartment, they could take it. Mills worked to make sure that all people got this particular constitutional right to have a place to live. When he was in the city he worked with a civil rights group and sent in black citizens to try to buy an apartment but when they were denied this, it proved that the apartment owners were breaking the 14th amendment. Although Alan Mills encounters in NYC were small, they made a difference none the less.

One of his more exciting ventures was his experience at the March On Washington. When asked why he went to the historical march he surprisingly responded, "That was actually an accident." At the time he was a counselor at a summer camp. After camp was over he decided to show another counselor, a friend of his, Washington D.C. As they drove down they saw the signs for the march, but he remembers, "I didn't even know it was going on!" When they did realize what was happening, they decided to go anyway. He remembers that they got there early and since they were down at the front, they didn't realize that so many people had come, "I turned around and saw this sea of humanity! The whole area was just people! And right away we knew this was historic." He recalls there was lots of entertainment with bands like "Peter Paul, and Mary,"and "Sweet Honey and the Rock." After all the entertainment, people started giving speeches. In fact so many people were speaking, Martin Luther King, Jr. was 17th on the list. When he did hear the I Had a Dream speech, he remembers having a feeling of energization because of the amazing truths and equality that he spoke of. Afterwards he remembers thinking, "Wow. This guy's got it." Along with the speech there was another significance about the March On Washington. There wasn't a single act of violence. Even though it was one of the biggest protests ever, on one of the most controversial issues nobody was hurt or arrested. This is how the March On Washington impacted Alan Mills and the entire Civil Rights Movement.

Along with having interacted with many important events such as the the Route 40 Rides and the March On Washington, Alan Mills also interacted with many people. When Alan was young, he remembers having friends of multiple colors. Since he grew up Jewish, the Sabbath meal was a special meal, so often his father would tell him to bring a friend over for the Sabbath. Along with this, through all the time that that he was working for civil rights, he also was trying to make friends of all color. Because of this he says, "I never lost a friend." Even now, Mr. Mills still helps people. Recently he has been helping out at the community English learners at Portland Adult Ed and South Portland Adult Ed. Also in retirement, he has been tutoring people to citizenship. Obviously you can see this man has lead a life full of helping people and his country.

Alan Mills experiences during the Civil Rights Movement may have seemed small but all in all they helped make America the symbol of equality it is today. As he once said, "We knew something was wrong," and as he showed if you have enough courage and perseverance you can change the world for the better. Alan Mills is an amazing man who accomplished many amazing achievements.

--by Henry C.

Kristina Minister

Kristina Minister was an ordinary girl who grew up in a segregated city, but escaped that by believing "you see a person as an individual and not by skin color." As Kristina got older she became more aware of the unfair treatment African Americans were getting because of their skin color, and decide that it was wrong. This led her to attend the famous March on Washington.

"*We just knew we were making something important*."

Just like many kids in the South, Kristina Minister grew up in a strictly segregated area, but as she said, "she escaped that." As a child she grew up in Dayton, Ohio, with her mom. Though they were surrounded by family and friends, they never really fit in with them. Kristina's mom, Ms.Arndt, worked in the hospital as a "salad girl." She worked alongside African Americans. Usually other white people would treat them like they were nothing, but Ms. Arndt treated them with respect. Watching her mother treat African Americans differently from the rest of the world influenced Kristina to do the same. As Kristina got older, she became aware of all the unequal treatment African Americans were getting because of their skin color. Seeing how they would suffer because they couldn't get a job changed Kristina's beliefs about the Civil Rights Movement, which eventually led her to attend the famous March on Washington.

As Kristina got older, she and her mother never really fit in with their family and friends. Kristina's family members never understood why they were friends with African Americans. One day she and her mother were waiting for the bus when a Thanksgiving parade went past them. While the the parade went through the street, all of the band members turned around and shouted, "Hey Miss. Arndt, Hey Kristina." These were people who worked in the hospital at one point in their lives. As Kristina and her mom told this story to her family members, they saw how shocked they were. Her grandmother’s face froze. Kristina's family would have been embarrassed if it was them. At a young age Kristina was aware of the different attitudes between she and her mother and their family and friends. But as she says, " I suppose as young person I made up my mind that heck, I was going to do what my mom and I do." That was treating African Americans with respect.

Though Kristina and her mother were different from the their family and friends, they knew that the way that they treated African Americans was the right way, and as she got older she became more aware of the unfair treatment they got.

In 1960, Kristina began her new career as a teacher in Central Commercial High School. She taught English to groups of students that were African American, Puerto Rican, Mexican, and white. They came from all five boroughs of New York. As she continued working in this school she was warned about a couple of kids who were gang members. These were kids who came from lower class families, and some of them didn't even know how to read. "They had been passed just to get rid of them," said Kristina. So Kristina went above and beyond to help her students learn how to read. Though her class was a

mixture of color, she never paid attention to the skin difference between herself and her students. It was like when she was younger, but now Kristina knew where these kids were coming from, and how they have so much potential to get a good job but can't because of their skin color. This influenced her beliefs on the Civil Rights Movement of how people shouldn't be denied a job because of their skin color. As Kristina carried on teaching at Central Commercial High School, she became more aware of the unequal treatment people of color were receiving which led her to attend the March on Washington.

After seeing all the advertisements in newspapers and on television, Kristina knew that the March on Washington was too important to miss. As the days got closer to the march, Kristina felt that she had to go. "It was like some voice said 'you're going'," said Kristina. The day of the march Kristina and her newlywed husband went on a bus organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). On their way to the march she and her husband were the only two white people on the bus. Though Kristina was used to being a minority, it made her husband a little uncomfortable to be there. On their way from New York to Washington D.C, everybody on the bus got so excited that no one went to sleep. They would be sharing food and joking around."It really did have a feeling of a religious service," said Kristina. As the sun came up, they saw rows of buses heading to Washington D.C. "That's when we knew that this was a big deal,"said Kristina.

Once they arrived at the March on Washington on August 28, 1963, they saw thousands of people from everywhere walking up to the Lincoln Memorial, and not just black people but also white. Once Kristina and her husband got to the Lincoln Memorial, they saw no sign of segregation between the crowd of people. It was a mixture of color. "It was a community," said Kristina. As the marchers began to assemble, they were focused on what was happening. "It was almost like a religious precession." As the march began, excitement started to fill the air.

During the several hours of the march, Kristina and her husband shared laughter, excitement, and happiness with other marchers. Before the march, everybody was afraid that riots would occur during the march, but luckily the march turned out to be a success, and no riot or violence disrupted the event. As the march went on, everything was in good shape. Everybody in the crowd was focused and cheered for every speech leaders presented to the marchers. "It was almost like we were marching in church," said Kristina.

As the March on Washington continued, Kristina heard some of the most inspiring speeches in her life. Though Dr. Martin Luther King's speech was the most famous, Kristina also was inspired by others like Roy Wilkins' and John Lewis'. However, Kristina believed that John Lewis' speech was "pretty radical and defiant." In the process of organizing the March on Washington, every speech that was going to be presented had be submitted to a committee that checked for anything that could bring disturbance in the march. So after checking John Lewis's speech, he had to make some modifications to his speech. However, though the speech was changed, his speech still managed to be one of Kristina's favorite speeches. After hearing all the inspiring speeches, Kristina's beliefs on the Civil Rights Rights Movement changed in many ways.

Kristina's beliefs about the Civil Rights Movement where reinforced after attending the March on Washington. After listening to all the inspiring speeches, Kristina was given a better understanding of how African Americans where treated unequally from white people. Everyone deserves to be treated equally, whether black or white. Ever since then Kristina has carried that belief until this day

Kristina Minister lived in an extraordinary time where she saw the unequal treatment African Americans would get in jobs and education. This influenced her to make a decision that this was unfair treatment, which eventually inspired her to attend the March on Washington. Until this day Kristina Minister carries her belief that nobody she be treated unequally. However, due to Kristina's experience in the Civil Rights Movement, she was inspired to pass on her beliefs to her children, which later on influenced her son to adopt a African American child. In the end, watching how her mother treat African Americans differently from the world persuade Kristina to believe that nobody should be treated differently because of their skin color.

--by Joy M

Val Mollineaux

Val is a kind, courageous musician who faced some of the darkest times of segregation in the South, and did not deserve the way he was treated.

"*Just because somebody's skin is a different color, it doesn't mean your blood is not red*."

"America, the land of the free, actually isn't that free," comments Val Mollineaux. Mr. Val Mollineaux grew up in Harlem, New York and traveled through the South with a blues band during the Civil Rights Movement: only to experience segregation unlike he had ever imagined. Living a hard life growing up, Val was tired of experiencing deprivation and never understood why he was called "colored." This is his remarkable story.

"I always knew I wasn't colored," reflects Val, "I knew I was African-American but never understood the term 'colored,' even at a young age." Val Mollineaux grew up poor in Harlem. "See, back in the day, we were limited for what we could do, even education. And all those things got stored up in my head, which made me wonder about some things. My mother was a domestic--a maid," says Val. "And every day, I would watch her go to work and I would think to myself--how can a person be deprived of so many things?" Val's mother had to raise a big family and it was a hard job. Her own parents had died at a young age and growing up for them was stressful. The biggest thing he would wonder is why do white people have to call African-Americans 'colored?' "You can't tell me what I am if you don't know me. Who in the world has the right to do that to you?" This wasn't the end of Val's curiosity though; it was just the beginning.

Harlem in the 1940s'; the parties were big. It had the most prestigious nightclubs. It was like a playground for the rich

white people. It was a place where stars got famous. It was everything you'd ever dream of. Harlem held famous places like the Apollo Theatre and the Cotton Club. Living under the city lights of Harlem, Val met many famous musicians like Ella Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker, Langston Hughes, and his future mentor: Duke Ellington. "Duke Ellington would teach me music, not physically, but mentally...Ellington's journey was inspiring, from starting at the Cotton Club to becoming a respected black composer, musician, and arranger." Growing up in the center of this musical lifestyle, Val was passionate about music at a young age. "That's how I was introduced to music and it has molded my life to this day."

As a young adult, when Val traveled with Joe Morris and his Cavalcade of Blues band throughout the South, they experienced terrible segregation that had a big impact on Val in particular. "The segregation laws in the South were really bad. I mean, you couldn't even go through the same door as the white people!" When Val went to perform in shows, when he wasn't on stage, he had to sit way up in the balcony where the person on stage was just a speck in his vision. This impacted him most because he, who probably had a lot more musical experience than the people right next to the stage, had to sit in the balcony because he was 'colored.' Val recalls almost everything was labeled 'whites only' and 'colored only.' "I remember one time where there was this little kid, and I asked him something, and he said 'you have to sir me'. And I just couldn't believe that here I'm an adult, and he's asking me to address him as sir." There were all these stressful things happening and Val and his band were bringing peace to these restless communities by playing music. And people were buying tickets to his concerts--*white* people. Val used his musical abilities as a way to connect during these hard times.

Settling in Maine for the following years, Val Mollineaux continued as a musician and also became a jazz guitar teacher. In 2009, there was the big election of president Obama, which was very moving to Val. "I just thought it was beautiful to see this colored man as the president. It shows how far we have come." Val thinks that our president is acting as a great role model. "He had a great election. It was very good, very concise, and everything was the way it was supposed to be. Being the first black president, it was definitely a big win for America."

To this day, Val still lives a busy life in Maine as a successful jazz guitar instructor and thinks that we have come very far, but still have a long way to go. "Its still unfair, I mean, there are still people who are making these bad racial remarks and can't understand the world is changing, and thats really sad." But, we have come a long way. And if we keep going in the direction that Val Mollineaux went in with perseverance and diligence, we will eventually get where we should be.

—by Liam S.

Bill Nave

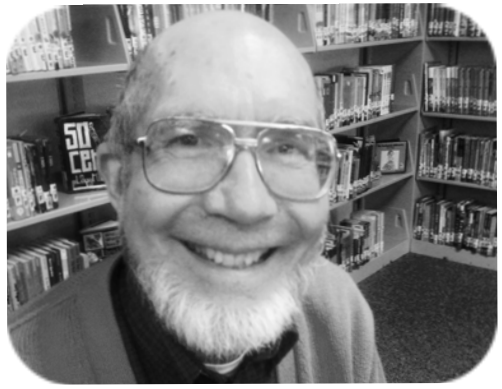
Bill Nave was a young man during the Civil Rights Movement. Bill saw the injustice that was going on, and he made it his goal to stop it. Bill worked hard all his life and strives, even now, to do what is right.

"*Even the slightest rock can make a big ripple*."

During the time of the Civil Rights Movement, a young man by the name of Bill Nave struggled and stood up for what was right in a world where wrong-doing was all around. This man's life is full of amazing stories that many people have had the privilege to hear. Bill Nave has done good deeds since he was a very young boy; he has helped out people whenever he could. From teaching troubled youth and making sure they got a good education, to participating in marches, such as the March on Columbia, Bill worked hard for justice. Bill became Teacher of the Year in Maine and a finalist for National Teacher of The Year for his exuberant efforts in helping all kids.

Bill's childhood was a very significant part of his life. His grandmother was a rodeo trick rider. And his mother was also closely involved with the rodeo. His mother had a baby when she was very young, her son Bill. Bill has never known who his real dad was. Bill said that one of his earliest memories was when he was three and he was told to bring a pillow with a ring on it down the dining room hallway. He was quoted saying, "I later realized in my life, that that had been my mother's wedding. She had just married my stepdad, which is the only dad that I knew." During Bill's childhood academics also played a major role in his life. He was a very avid learner which was peculiar because both of his parents did not have a good education. "I remember when my dad showed me his report card and it was all D's and F's." School was his home away from home. It was also like his second family. "I found that, inadvertently, I kept on calling my teachers '*mother'* first grade, second grade, third grade, fourth grade teachers." The fact that he liked learning and was an avid learner played a huge role in his life, because without it he would have never become the person he is today.

As a child Bill Nave participated in the Boy Scouts. During this time he had a memorable dream. "I remember dreaming that we were on a camping trip and I was in a pup tent by myself, and the other kids were in the other tents. I woke up and tried to join the group and they all wouldn't let me join; they rejected me. They wouldn't let me be part of their group. I was wondering, what's going on? I was feeling pretty bad about that and then I looked at my hands and I was black. And I thought, what the heck? This isn't right, these kids are rejecting me just because my skin is different? That dream came back to me multiple times throughout my life." As you can see, if his childhood did not turn out the way it did, he probably wouldn't have become the man he is today.



After college,Bill was an involved activist training to become a minister. During this time Martin Luther King Jr. ,who was someone Bill admired, had risen to fame and was now planning the Poor People's March. A few people from Bill's school and church were planning to march with them. The march would take them a few days to get to because of the distance, and they needed money, clothes, food etc. Bill had the idea to start a "shanty" as he called it. The shanty was used as a place for donations. The idea was to gather supplies for the group heading to Washington D.C. Bill made a system where people would switch off watching or "manning" the booth. This went on for at least a week until one day, during Bill's shift, he came to the booth to find that it had been burned down with nothing but his metal folding chair left standing. The police paid no attention and did not care that someone could have been hurt. In fact the only hint of notice that they showed was when Bill put a sign made of paper on the mound saying; "White racism in Princeton." The police showed up later and asked Bill to remove it. Bill turned the paper around and then turned it back around promptly after the policeman left. The policeman came back later and confiscated the sign.

Later, Bill Nave had another brush with the law. Columbia University had taken over part of Harlem's Park, destroying animal's homes and trees in the process. They did this with the intention to build a new gymnasium. Bill's

friend Galen, a mennonite from Kansas who did not know much about the city, had gotten Bill and himself to the front of the march to protect the park. A little way into the march the New York Technical Police Force came in via school bus with paddy wagons. They started throwing people in the paddy wagons. "I just wanted to stay with Galen, he was my main concern. Since he did not know the city, I felt that it was my responsibility to get him home safe," Bill said. They moved them through two jails before they put them in a cell with no bathrooms in City Hall, which just so happened the police HQ, to await their night court session. "One man had to go to the bathroom so badly he opened up the window and well....I just hate to wonder what happened to the people in the streets." When they went to night court they received their court date, which was later on in the future and then released. Bill went to court two times, each one the arresting officer was not there so they had to postpone the court date to a later date. It wasn't until the third court date that the arresting officer showed up. "Mind you, this was not the same guy that threw me in the paddy wagon." said Bill. Bill did not go to prison, and this did not stop him from participating in other marches.

On the day Bill Nave got arrested he was on the subway heading home when he saw an ad saying "*New York needs teachers*." All you need to qualify is a college degree. Bill took the course and only had one practice teaching class. He started teaching a sixth grade science class that fall at an all black school. "My first day I had to walk through NYC teachers union picket lines because the teachers were protesting the all black school." After a while he moved schools to a Long Island middle school. Then again after a few years he moved to Maine when his baby was born because the New York school system was not at all good where he lived. He took a job at a middle school, but he wanted to take more time and teach the students that were having trouble in a one on one situation. Sadly, the principal said *no* year after year until after 7 years he said, "OK I'll give you the worst acting students and you have to work with them and teach them ALL subjects." Bill agreed with a grin; this was the job he had wanted in the first place. Then a new principal arrived, after the old one retired, and did not like Bill's program, so she dismantled it and fired Bill. That year, after he got fired, he was at an interview for a new school that was opening that fall. After a while he started interviewing them, and they didn't know what they were doing, not in the slightest. So they offered him a job and now he is one of the school's consultants. He wanted to know why some students dropped out of school so that he could make their experience at the new school more enjoyable. Bill went door to door and asked the students ,or dropouts, "Why did you leave school? and they all said 'Because I felt invisible, I just sat in the back of the class and stared into space because none of the teachers cared about me.'" So Bill asked them, " If we can create an environment that you will never be invisible, will you come back to school?" And they all said yes. Later on in his life Bill was chosen Maine Teacher of the Year and finished third in National Teacher of the Year for 1999.

Dr. King has played a very influential part in Bill's life. Bill said that he "was probably the greatest speakers of the 1950's - 1960's." He also said that he made you feel as if your efforts to make a difference and that all of the people's suffering was not for naught. Bill also said, "He is my hero." When asked about Dr. King's assassination, Bills eyes grew sad. Some people got depressed after the assassination, and the event kind of diffused their will to fight, but Bill's response was defiant "Not at all! When your leader gets stricken down you don't give up, you don't just go home and pout. No. You get up and follow his dream through to the end to make sure that his death was not in vain. I think that we followed his dream through to the end, but I also think that there still is a lot to do in the terms of segregation." This shows how passionate Bill is about his cause and drive to do what is right, wherever and whenever he can.

When asked about the Poor People's March, he responded "I think that it was about trying to bring to the public's attention that this wasn't just about the war, it wasn't just about Civil Rights, it wasn't just about integration, it was also about economic rights, economic integration so to speak." He also explained that there was an enormous overlap with people who lived in poverty and people of color. "But to sum it up," Bill said, " it was basically to bring to the people's attention that, even if all man were equal, the economy would still constrict the type of education a child receives, the type of neighborhood they live in and what type of job they get." Bill got rather worked up about this issue.

When asked about the Birmingham bombing, the room seemed to quiet down. "Well," said Bill "it was another one of those, gosh-darn it moments, this irrational hatred and prejudice has caused more deaths. In this case [.....] innocent little girls, it was another incident that made me buckle down on my commitment to make a difference. I.....I just felt helpless." Later Bill said. "The thought that I could have done something to prevent this haunted me. That was one of the events that really made me sure who I am. I was someone who wanted to to help people. I still do and I won't stop 'till I die." Bill showed great emotion and felling about this subject. This shows he deeply he feels about the injustice that has been done, even if it is in the past.

It was a pleasure to share in Bill's memories and amazing tales. It is safe to assume that Bill's main goal was that he wants to help people, mostly troubled children, because he know how important a substantial education is to a young growing mind, and how it effects their future decisions. No matter what the cost. Bill lives in Maine as a retired teacher and is by the looks of it, a happy man.

—by Charles B.P.

Harold Pachios

Harold Pachios has spent his career working to gain civil rights for Americans. Mr. Pachios has served his country in the Navy, he attended law school, he has had numerous jobs in the government, and as a young man he reported about the March on Washington. Harold Pachios has experienced these extraordinary events and they have had an impact on his life.

"*Look how far we've come, but how much there is to overcome*."

In his early life, Harold Pachios wasn't always aware of the things that were happening in the South, like discrimination and segregation. Before attending college, he served in the Navy. After serving his country, he went to law school. Additionally, Mr. Pachios worked in the White House as Associate White House Press Secretary under President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965-1967. He worked in the Peace Corps in the agency's early years as well. Mr. Pachios was also involved in the funeral arrangements for President John F. Kennedy, because his boss was John F. Kennedy's brother-in-law. Currently, he serves as a founding member of Preti Flaherty law firm. All in all, Harold Pachios was very involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

As a young man, Harold Pachios served in the Navy. Harold also attended Princeton. He recalls that at Princeton, he barely saw a colored person there. After the Navy, and before working in the White House, he was a reporter for the Portland Press Herald. This job at the Portland Press Herald lead him to the March on Washington, where he was in a close proximity to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Later, he was offered a job at the White House to work as the Associate White House Press Secretary in the Johnson administration.

Mr. Pachios was working in the Kennedy administration when the march was announced. The Portland Press Herald asked if he would go down to Washington D.C. to report and write a story on the

march. This event was Mr. Pachios' first encounter with the Civil Rights Movement. Harold Pachios recalls that people were smiling, carrying signs, and singing. "There had never been that kind of an assembly, that number of people in a protest, in Washington D.C. ever," he says with enthusiasm. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, while Mr. Pachios was close by, reporting. "Forever will be known as one of the great speeches in American history," Harold shares. He remembers that the police thought that things were going to get out of hand, though the march was incredibly peaceful. Mr. Pachios says with amazement, "the most fascinating thing about the march, is how the people conducted themselves." There were "200,000 people, angry about the way

they've been treated, but not expressing it. The march was the opposite of violence."

President Kennedy's assassination was a very significant event in Mr. Pachios' life. In 1963, Harold was working in the Peace Corps when president Kennedy was killed. His boss at the Peace Corp was John F. Kennedy's brother-in-law, so Harold was in the room when they were making his funeral arrangements. Mr. Pachios went to the White House with a black tie on for his boss, and remembers that everybody was in shock. Thinking back to John F. Kennedy's funeral, Pachios says, "there was barely a cough, you could hear a pin drop."

After John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Lyndon B. Johnson became president. Harold Pachios worked as the Associate White House Press Secretary under President Lyndon B. Johnson from 1965-1967. Lyndon B. Johnson made a difference, and had a huge impact in the Civil Rights Movement. Lyndon Johnson was the 36th president and served from 1963-1969. Six weeks after becoming President of the United States, Johnson sent a bill to Congress to pass a law to integrate busses, schools, restaurants, hotels basically everything that was segregated. President Johnson knew that the law didn't have a chance of getting passed, because all of the legislators in the South were white. "Everybody thought it couldn't be done," says Harold Pachios, thinking back to that time. Lyndon B. Johnson was a Southerner, and he was very persuasive. There are some first hand accounts of Lyndon B. Johnson's phone calls, and how he negotiated with the white legislators can be heard. "He was a great legislative genius, and he got that bill passed," says Mr. Pachios.

The March on Selma was a very important event in the Civil Rights Movement. This march was organized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and was the first march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The march was from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama. As Mr. Pachios recalls, the police had dogs and tear gas to stop the marchers. "It was all non-violent, not the police, but the marchers, because that was Dr. King's weapon. Harold remembers Martin Luther King, Jr's weapon, non-violence which was his theory. The theory was if the police and soldiers beat the protestors, they were just supposed to cover their heads and not fight back. Martin Luther King, Jr. thought that was a powerful approach.

The role of education in the Civil Rights Movement was very huge. To stay safe, many kids who integrated schools had to be escorted by U.S. Marshals. Mr. Pachios emphasizes the importance of education. "Education is the single, by far, most important thing in human understanding," he says. Harold talked about how at King Middle School, we "got the world here!" and that we have students from all different cultures around the world. "Ignorance spawns most hate, most misunderstanding, and there is a lot of ignorance in this world," says Pachios, while talking about education in the South during the Civil Rights Movement. "Tolerance comes from knowledge, and prejudice comes from ignorance. Kids learn things at a young age, from their parents, they learn prejudice."

Without many small acts of courage, there wouldn't have been Civil Rights Movement. All of the little events inside created it. African Americans were tired of the way they were being treated. Almost every city in the South had segregated schools, busses, restaurants, and everything that could be segregated. There were also segregated movie theaters, where African Americans had to sit up in the balconies, and whites had front row seats. Harold recalls that one of the earliest protests for equal rights was in a chain store in Greensbourough, North Carolina. The store had a lunch counter and it was supposed to be segregated, but some black college students came in and sat, as a from of peaceful protest. In all, there were many events that were each very important in the goal of equal rights.

Even now, Harold Pachios says that there is still work to be done in terms of civil rights in the U.S. He is currently working at Preti Flaherty, and is a founding partner. He was listed in Woodward-Whites 2008 addition of *The Best Lawyers In America.* Harold has had a long career. He has worked in the White House, reported on the March on Washington, worked for the Peace Corps, and attended law school. "Look how far we've come but how much there is to overcome," Harold Pachios says. As a final point, Mr. Pachios was very involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

--by Grace C.

Master Sergeant Sheppard

Master Sergeant Sheppard has worked very hard in his life to help others around him. He has shown a lot of perseverance and courage. He was born and raised in Harlem, New York. He attended Haaren Aviation Technical High School.

"*Those black men can't fly; they're not good enough*."

Bravery and confidence describe Master Sergeant Sheppard. He was born and raised in Harlem, New York by his single mother. There he attended Harren Aviation Technical High School. At the time if you were a boy and you were 18 or older you had to fill out a form for the Army. Master Sergeant James Sheppard took a three year course. Then the day came to take the test to get into the Army. He graduated in June of 1942. He then went into the Tuskegee Army Air Force Flying School. His choice to become a pilot would impact many lives.

Master Sergeant James Sheppard was in training for three months. After three months in training he graduated to infantry. He became a mechanic where he learned how to help fix the planes and other machinery. Master Sergeant James Sheppard finally earned his certificate and license to be a pilot from Washington D.C. Master Sergeant Sheppard took many different aviation written exams in pursuit of his license.

Black soldiers played a large part of the Civil Rights Movement and were a defining part of Master Sergeant Sheppard's life as well. As he walked into training for the first time the Sergeant said, "Get in

line where it says S" and when he got into line he was told to "move to the colored section.” When he applied the white man said that they didn't accept forms from African Americans for combat. "They were playing tricks on the public." While he was in training his squadron flew long distances and they weren't allowed to land on whites bases. So if they were running out of fuel, it was too bad because they couldn't land. There were always black soldiers in the army." For a while Master Sergeant James Sheppard lived in a tent, as did the whites. There were six men in each tent. For once he didn't feel different.

Master Sergeant James Sheppard also remembers making warships, tanks, and trucks. Along with his squadron they gave 50 brand new destroyers to England. "They were like Harley-Davidson motorcycles."They had shipped them to somewhere where they had never seen that type of equipment.

One of the most memorable times in Master Sergeant Sheppard's life was WWII. WWII went on from 1941-1945. Many people were impacted in many ways. Master Sergeant James Sheppard was told that if his squadron were to go over Ireland they would be shot down, or killed anyway possible. Master Sergeant crewed the P-39 Airacobra in Italy and the North American P-51 Mustangs. He continued to do so until the war ended in Europe in 1945.

Believe it or not, Master Sergeant James Sheppard was a Shirley Temple doll maker. He also made model airplanes. Master Sergeant James Sheppard got his inspiration to be a mechanic by being a model plane maker. Master Sergeant then majored in mechanics.

As you can see Master Sergeant James Sheppard has inspired many and participated in many life changing events. He has shown that no matter the color of your skin you can fight for your country. "You might think I'm different, but to me your different." That is just many of the ways Master Sergeant James Sheppard has helped others around him.

--Madison B

Gerald E. Talbot

Gerald Talbot fought for civil rights but he focused on equality in Portland and Maine. One of the events he was involved in was the March on Washington, and he witnessed Martin Luther King's, "I have a Dream" speech.

"*I have three children and I wanted them to have a better life than I did*."

Gerald Talbot grew up in Bangor, Maine. His father was a lighter-skinned African American and his mother was darker. They were from Canada. He lived in Bangor, Maine and he never saw a black policeman or a black person because there weren't many in Bangor. After he graduated from high school, he moved to Portland.

After he moved to Portland he decided to join the Marine Corps but they didn't accept him because he was colorblind. Then he decided to join the Army. He was in great shape and he passed all the tests and entered the Army. He wanted to be the only one in his family to go to Korea, but they sent him to the top of the world, Thule, Greenland. He spent a year there. After he got there they asked him if he wanted to stay there for six months and then go home for 30 days and come back for another six months. He didn't accept it. He decided to stay there for a full year. In Greenland there is six months of sunshine and six months of darkness. When he was there, he thought, "There is no women there, there is no grass on the ground, there is nothing there."

When he returned to Maine he tried to rent a house, but no one would rent to him, because "subtle discrimination was all over." He would be told that he had the place, and then "when I would

come back, and they would see that my wife was darker and they wouldn't rent to us."

When they eventually settled in Portland, he joined the NAACP in 1957. When he joined the NAACP about 15 black people in Portland got together because "we had nowhere to go, we

couldn't go to the police department, we had no organization to help us." They held a press conference to announce this knew organization. They hoped to find out what was going on with housing discrimination in Portland. In 1964 Gerald Talbot become the President of the NAACP. Today the Portland NAACP is over 50 years old.

After he joined the NAACP, a man from church invited him to go to the March on Washington. He was so happy. Before he could do anything he had to talk with his wife Anita. Anita said that going to Washington could be very dangerous, but she still accepted it. When he went to Washington he saw a lot of different people. He said that going to Washington at anytime during the summer would be hot. He was listened to A. Phillip Randolph, and everybody wanted to sit because it was very hot and they felt tired. But when Martin Luther King, Jr. came up to the microphone, "everyone stood up, everyone stood up." When he heard the Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech it lit them up.

After the March they walked back to the bus. They took the bus all the way back to Boston. When they got back to Boston there was all kinds of food even though it was the middle of the night. This was important because it shows people that helped them.

After he got back from Boston he retired from NAACP as President. Next he decided to become involved in the government. It was a challenge because of his skin color. He thought that he would lose but he ran anyway and he won. He was elected in 1962 and he became the first black Legislature in state of Maine. After he won, he changed the law so that no one could name any city or town the "N" word.

"Once you get involved you keep getting involved," said Mr. Talbot. He has spent his life getting involved with civil rights and the NAACP. He stood up for what is right for the society and community. Gerald Talbot is a great man, he fought for us so we can have a good life in Maine.

--by Pedro F.

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