

BLACK HISTORY



Ralph David Abernathy, was Martin Luther King's best friend and chief advocate.

Carrying on a Legacy

Civil rights leader Ralph David Abernathy was the best friend and trusted assistant of Martin Luther King Jr., whom he succeeded as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a nonviolent civil rights organization.

Abernathy aspired early on to become a preacher and was ordained as a Baptist minister. After his college education, he served as minister at the Eastern Star Baptist church near his hometown of Linden, Ala.

While boycotts of the Montgomery, Ala. buses began shortly after Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her bus seat, ministers formed the Montgomery Improvement Association — a name suggested by Abernathy — to coordinate the boycott.

Abernathy's first project as president of the SCLC was the completion of King's plan to hold a Poor People's Campaign in Washington during which poor people of any race would present their problems to President Lyndon B. Johnson and Congress.

After resigning from the SCLC in 1977, he formed an organization called Foundation for Economic Enterprises Development, designed to help train African Americans for better economic opportunities.

He continued to carry out his ministerial duties in Montgomery and lectured throughout the US. Abernathy died of a heart attack in 1990 in Atlanta, Ga.

A Light for Civil Rights

Dorothy Cotton (1930-) was a leader of the 1960s African-American Civil Rights Movement and a member of the inner-circle of one of its main organizations, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. As the SCLC's Educational Director, she was arguably the highest ranked female member of the organization.

Cotton helped to organize the students during the 1963 Birmingham Movement and its Children's Crusade and conducted citizenship classes throughout the South during the era. She also accompanied Martin Luther King, Jr., the co-founder and first president of the SCLC, on his trip to Oslo, Norway to receive the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.



Dorothy Cotton

A Vote for Equality

Fannie Lou Hamer was an outspoken advocate for African American civil rights.

In 1962, Hamer was invited to attend a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee meeting. After hearing the committee's presentation, she was convinced she should try to register to vote no matter what the cost.

Though she was regularly threatened and faced beatings, a bombing and ridicule, Hamer continued on with her journey to seek equality.

One year after attending the SNCC meetings, Hamer became a registered voter and a field secretary for the organization. She worked with voter registration drives in various locales and helped develop programs to assist economically deprived African American families.

Hamer continued to be politically active and from 1968 to 1971 and was a member of the Democratic National Committee from Mississippi and was a catalyst in the development of various programs to aid the poor in her community.

Hamer died of cancer in 1977 in Mound Bayou, Miss.



Fannie Lou Hamer

Vote to Support Students

A Portland non-profit needs your Internet vote to win a grant to buy computers for local students.

Minority Information Outreach is a Portland-based organization that provides underprivileged youth, specifically Roosevelt High School students, with computers.

The organization is competing in online voting to determine which ideas will receive a \$25,000 Pepsi Refresh Grant, with voting ending Feb. 28.

This grant would provide 2,500 computers to low-income students in the Portland Public School District.

RahMiel Mitchell established the outreach effort to give low-income and the latest resources they need to improve their lives and their futures.

To vote in the grant competition, visit refresheverything.com/rahmielmitchell.

Black History Month events at

REED COLLEGE

WWW.REED.EDU/BHM/INDEX.HTML Events are free unless otherwise noted.

Reed Celebrates Black History Month



LECTURE: FEBRUARY 19
7 P.M., VOLLUM LECTURE HALL

Melissa Harris-Lacewell

Melissa Harris-Lacewell is an associate professor of politics and African American studies at Princeton University. She is the author of the award-winning book *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought* (Princeton, 2004).



ROMP! CONVERSATION: FEBRUARY 20
2 P.M., PSYCHOLOGY 105

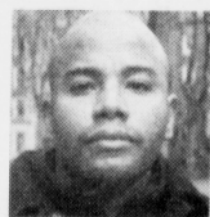
Imani Winds

Grammy-nominated Imani Winds has carved out a distinct presence in the classical music world. In conjunction with Black History Month, the members of Imani Winds will discuss their musical tribute to iconic African American entertainer Josephine Baker. The conversation, part of ROMP! and moderated by Reed professor of music Mark Burford.

CHAMBER MUSIC NORTHWEST & ROMP! CONCERT: FEBRUARY 20
7:30 P.M., KAUL AUDITORIUM

Imani Winds

Imani Winds presents a program influenced by tango and Cuban music. Tickets: \$10-48; call 503/294-6400.



LECTURE: FEBRUARY 27
7 P.M., VOLLUM LECTURE HALL

Peniel E. Joseph

Peniel E. Joseph is a professor of Africana studies at Brandeis University and an expert on the black radical tradition, pan-Africanism, black social movements, and African American feminism. Joseph's first two books, *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America* and *The Black Power Movement: Rethinking the Civil Rights-Black Power Era*, were published in 2006.

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