



LIVING LEGACY PROJECT



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME 'ROUND

THE MUSIC OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE



a monthly online series
February - May 2021
livinglegacypilgrimage.org

Living Legacy Project presents... PIVOTAL EVENTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



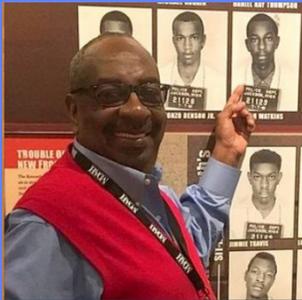
Dr. Shirley Cherry
in the kitchen of Dexter Parsonage

February 28, 2021 -- 5:30 pm Eastern DR. KING AND THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

In this program, you'll hear from Dr. Shirley Cherry, retired Tour Director of the Dexter Parsonage Museum, Montgomery, AL, home to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from 1954 to 1960. Learn about the early days of Dr. King's ministry and the vital role he played in the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

In addition, hear Dr. Cherry's personal story--how a child growing up in segregation, barred from public libraries and schools, became an award-winning teacher, librarian, and educator. While Dexter Pasonage Museum tour visitors from all over the world came to learn from Dr. Cherry about the "Kingian Legacy" of peace, agape love, courage, justice, non-violence, and commitment.

You won't want to miss meeting Dr. Cherry and hearing her inspiring stories!



Freedom Rides and Freedom Summer: The Movement in Mississippi

March 28, 2021 -- 5:30 pm Eastern

Meet "Mississippi's youngest Freedom Rider," Hezekiah Watkins, and Angela Lewis, daughter of slain civil rights activist, James Chaney.

Mr. Watkins and Ms. Lewis will share incredible stories of courage in the struggle for justice and how the movement in Mississippi changed the course of history. Don't miss hearing from these two beautiful souls!



April 25, 2021
2:30 PDT, 3:30 MDT; 4:30 CDT; 5:30 EDT

THE SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MOVEMENT

By the time Joanne Bland was a teenager, she had been arrested countless times in Selma, Alabama, fighting for equality and voting rights for African Americans. In 1965, she participated in the Bloody Sunday March, the day police attacked peaceful protestors on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. She worked with SNCC (The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) to organize people in her home community to demand the right to vote and end police violence. And all throughout her life, she has stood-up against injustice wherever she sees it.

In this program, Joanne Bland will share her story and how what happened in Selma has relevance for today.



Ms. Joanne Bland



LLP MARCHES ON VIRTUALLY

In 2020, when the world shut down from the COVID 19 pandemic, we knew we had to take our passion and commitment online. In this election year, people everywhere needed to understand voting rights and how they could help to ensure them. We addressed that need by offering a monthly virtual education series called "Voting Rights: The Struggle Continues."

This series activated a new audience, so we launched a follow-up educational series in 2021: *Pivotal Events of the American Civil Rights Movement*. With this series, we brought the past alive with a focus on present-day connections. Speakers included:

- Dr. Shirley Cherry from the Dexter Parsonage Museum in Montgomery, AL
- Interpretive justice icon, Ms. Joanne Bland from Selma, AL
- Freedom rider, Mr. Hezekiah Watkins, from the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, MS
- Ms. Angela Lewis, daughter of civil rights martyr, Mr. James Chaney

The importance of music to the Movement was demonstrated during our series, *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round: The*

Music of Civil Rights and Social Change. One example of that power was the groundbreaking musical collaboration between three musicians, Dr. Kathy Bullock, Ms. Lea Gilmore, and Dr. Kim Harris. They rocked the house and dazzled the screen.

This passion for education and change continued to rise in our latest offering: *Speaking Truth: Countering Disinformation About Racial History*. This Fall 2021 series, which tackled the issues of Critical Race Theory, *The 1619 Project*, and medical racism has helped us determine other ways to stay on mission as we continue to serve our audience.

Whether virtually or in-person, the Living Legacy Project is committed to its role as an agent of inspiration and change in our challenging nation and world.



If you missed any of these inspiring webinars, you can view them on our YouTube channel.

youtube.com/LivingLegacyProject

REMEMBERING THE ANCESTORS

MR. JOSEPH SELMON (1952-2021)

Joseph Selmon drove the bus for the very first Southern Civil Rights Tour organized by Gordon and Judy Gibson in 2004. He traveled with us on practically every trip since then, either as a driver or as our logistics coordinator.

At the age of ten, Joseph experienced the fire hoses and attack dogs used against the young protestors who had joined the Birmingham Children's Crusade. His lifelong commitment to educating others about what happened in Kelly Ingram Park in May of 1963, and throughout the South made him a valued member of the LLP team.

In addition to his fine driving and logistical expertise, Joseph introduced us to people such as the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Mr. Medgar Evers' daughter, Ms. Reena Evers-Everette, and so many others who played vital roles in the Civil Right Movement.

We will miss him more than we can say. May he rest with the angels.



THE REV. DR. HOPE JOHNSON (2020)

At the end of 2020, we mourned the loss of one of LLP's founders, Hope Johnson. Hope's passion for the LLP was never more evident than when she talked about its future. In 2021, we launched [the Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson Legacy Fund](#) to honor Hope and her commitment to the LLP. To date, we have raised over \$15,000 toward her legacy. We also honored Hope around her birthday this year by sharing a daily post called [Thirty Days of Hope](#). These brief meditations were designed to remind us that even in seemingly hopeless times, hope is never lost. Hope believed that with her entire spirit, and so do we.





LIVING LEGACY PROJECT

WHAT'S IN A FLAME?

During the early days of the pandemic, the LLP's Board and Founders reflected on our vision, mission, values, and goals. If we couldn't take people on civil rights pilgrimages, how could we live into our mission? Out of those discussions came a desire for an identifiable visual identity to connect us to our mission and vision. We spoke to several design firms before selecting [Points North Studio](#), a Black womxn-owned firm based in Baltimore, to create our visual identity.

After a lot of soul searching, the LLP Board embraced an interlocked and multi-colored flame. The flame is a nearly universal symbol of vitality and creativity. We have no unique claim to this symbol. However, that's the point. We align ourselves with a symbol that has deep significance among civilizations and cultures around the world.

In many civic and religious settings, the flame is employed as a life-giving symbol of strength and

endurance over the generations. It is this tradition that the Living Legacy seeks to draw upon and represent. We invite everyone of good will to join us in serving this cause.

The colors we chose represent what the LLP is about and the spirit and energy that flows through us. The folx at Points North associated an LLP value with each color so as we use them, we're reminded of what we are here to do.



We hope you appreciate our new visual identity and, when you see it, are reminded of who we are and the vision and mission we are working to achieve.

LIVING LEGACY PROJECT'S VISION AND MISSION

The Living Legacy Project's vision is a just and equitable world free from racism and other systems of oppression.

Mindful of this vision, the Living Legacy Project's mission is to provide experiential education about the American Civil Rights Movement that challenges, inspires, and equips people from all backgrounds for justice work in their communities and beyond.



LLP BOARD AND FOUNDERS RETREAT

Penn Center, situated on St. Helena Island, SC, proved to be the perfect location for the LLP Board and Founder retreat in November. Formerly the Penn School, founded in 1862 by Unitarian and Quaker missionaries Laura Towne and Ellen Murray, it was the first school in the South established specifically for the education of formerly enslaved people. Today, it is an African American cultural and educational center at the heart of the Gullah-Geechee community.

The history that is embedded in this National Historic Landmark, includes serving as a retreat for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement. King visited the community five times between 1964 and 1967.

Meeting on this sacred ground, the Board recommitted to the mission of LLP, to provide experiential education about the American Civil Rights Movement that challenges, inspires, and equips people from diverse backgrounds and identities for justice work in their communities and beyond.

Rev. Sarah Lammert and Ms. Addison Tucker facilitated the retreat, assisting the Board to celebrate accomplishments of the past year and engage in strategic planning for the future. We developed five target areas for our focus: partnerships, programming, fundraising, volunteer

development, and leadership development (i.e., succession planning for board and staff). There is much work to do and the Board and Founders left the retreat energized to do it!



LLP Board members, co-founders, retreat facilitators, and family members

2021 MILESTONES

- ◆ Provided three educational webinar series, 10 webinars in total
- ◆ Attracted over 1,000 participants to our webinars from around the continent
- ◆ Raised over \$15,000 to support the Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson Legacy Fund
- ◆ Hosted *Thirty Days of Hope* to remind us that hope is alive
- ◆ Expanded and developed partnerships with several colleges and universities to provide in-person Pilgrimages in 2022 and beyond
- ◆ Adopted a new visual identity to represent our mission and vision

WHAT'S NEXT IN 2022 AND BEYOND



Since 2008, the Living Legacy Project has lived its mission to challenge and inspire people from diverse backgrounds and identities by educating them about the American Civil Rights Movement through immersive experiences. Hundreds have traveled with us through the American South, visiting places often known only from old newspaper articles or schoolbooks.

We have heard from those who've journeyed with us that being at these sacred sites and meeting people who were there in the struggle is a life-changing, transformational experience. Indeed, it has motivated many to work for change in their own communities.

To keep this change momentum going, we knew we needed more young people to have this experience. As we worked to overcome the obstacles of time and funding that young people often face, opportunity came to us.

In 2018, Nazareth College in Rochester, NY, approached us to ask if we would consider a pilgrimage consisting of Nazareth students and college staff. It didn't take us long to say "yes." After the first very successful journey, Nazareth asked to make the pilgrimage an annual event. And so we did, that is, until the pandemic intervened.

We're confident that Nazareth will be back on board as soon as the pandemic relents enough for us to travel by bus again. Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles has also signed on to a pilgrimage we hope to hold this year. In addition, we're in conversation with several other colleges, universities, and community-based organizations.

This doesn't mean we are abandoning our regular open pilgrimages. We'll still offer those, as soon as it is safe for groups to travel together by bus. We're excited to have partners working with us to ensure that the learning and the work will continue well into the future.



Nazareth College Students and Staff, January 2020

LIVING LEGACY PROJECT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS



Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson
Secretary & Co-founder



Mr. Reggie Harris
Co-president &
Director of Music Education



Dr. Janiece Sneegas
Co-president



Mr. John Harris
Treasurer



Mr. Julian Sharp
Director



Rev. Carlton Smith
Director



Dr. Pamela Zappardino
Director

DIRECTORS



Ms. Kristin Famula
Director



Rev. James A Hobart
Director

CO-FOUNDERS



Dr. Janice Marie Johnson
Co-founder



Ms. Annette Marquis
Co-founder &
Director of Operations



Ms. Judy Gibson
Co-founder

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

The LLP depends on people who share our belief that the stories and people of the American Civil Rights Movement cannot be forgotten. If you made a donation in 2021, we can't thank you enough for your generosity.

In 2022, the LLP will be launching a major fundraising and volunteer campaign to sustain this work long into the future. Given how important it is to remember this history, we need your support more now than ever!

MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT

Please consider making a major gift (whatever that means to your budget and circumstances) over the next three to five years to help us provide Pilgrimage opportunities and other educational programs to teach the history of racism and of Black empowerment in this country. You can make all the difference!

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We also hope you'll consider volunteering with us. In 2022, we will be announcing a variety of volunteer opportunities to help us live our mission. Whatever your skills and talents, we value your involvement.

Contact Annette (amarquis@livinglegacypilgrimage.org) to discuss a financial gift or how you might become involved as a volunteer.



Watch for LLP merch coming in 2022!



SUPPORT THE LIVING LEGACY PROJECT

To donate by credit card or by PayPal, [click the Donate button](#) on the LLP's homepage: livinglegacypilgrimage.org.

You can also mail a check to:

Living Legacy Project
1248 CarMia Way #1015
Richmond, VA 23235

Thank you for your ongoing support!

The Living Legacy Project, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation in the State of Virginia. Our federal tax ID #: 84-2816632.

Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr



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