CRMVet Newsletter

February 2026

Photo Credit: **Sonia Sanchez** is a pioneering poet, educator, writer, and professor. Sanchez was a member of **CORE** (Congress of Racial Equality) in New York and a leading figure in the **Black Arts Movement.**

Civil Rights Movement ARCHIVE

www.crmvet.org

CRMA
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ARCHIVE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 1st, 2026

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For many of veterans of the Southern Freedom Movement, the events we're witnessing on the streets of American cities from Los Angeles to Minneapolis spark bitter and painful memories of tear gas and attack dogs, beatings and brutality, mass round-ups and crowded jail cells, and of brothers and sisters gunned down by police and murdered with impunity by white-terrorists.

What we are now experiencing are not just the tyrannical impulses of a power-mad, wannabe king (though he is that). Nor are they merely the inevitable outcome of partisan demagoguery and machinations by a reactionary political party (though they are that too). In a recent article titled, *The War of Southern Aggression*," Michael Podhorzer, the former political director of the AFL-CIO, interprets what we've experienced during this first year of the MAGA Regime (and for quite some time before), as a political resurgence of what he refers to as the "neo-confederacy." Meaning far-right controlled states, political movements, and power centers, that refuse to accept the legitimacy of the United States as the pluralistic democracy that the majority of Americans aspire it to be.

As veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, we might think of it as a broad, well-financed, ongoing coup by the political descendants of the Dixiecrats and White Citizens Councils we faced back in the day. White supremacists and Christian nationalists committed to restoring both the racial caste hierarchy we fought and partially defeated in the 1950s and '60s and the dominance of unrestrained robber-baron economics that the labor movement of our parents fought against in the 1930s and '40s.

In one example, Podhorzer observes:

"The 'stolen election myth does not draw its power from claims that Democrats stuffed ballot boxes or manipulated vote totals. It draws its force from a deeper presumption: that Democratic victories are invalid because they rest on the political equality of people who, in the neo-Confederate world-view, are not entitled to the same standing in the polity as white Christians. The 2020 election was a fraud not because the votes were miscounted but because of whose votes were allowed to count, meaning that elected Democrats are not political opponents but the "enemy within" — a subversive threat to the 'real' America."

We could make a similar point about the Tea Party from which the MAGA movement grew. At root, their motivating rage was that 'illigitmate' voters had defied 'real' Americans by placing a Black man and woman in the White House.

Today, many Americans are shocked and horrified by what is being done to our democracy by the MAGA Regime and their violent, politically motivated, military-style occupation of cities that try to uphold values of justice and equality. Yet we Freedom Movement veterans whose boots were on the ground half a century ago standing against white-supremacy and police-state violence can take some comfort from the knowledge that because we defeated them before we know that they can be defeated again — if people summon the will and courage to do so.

PLEASE DONATE

With a Little Help From Our Friends,
We'll keep on keeping on.

Ever since we established the CRMA (originally known as "CRMVet") in 1999, it has been almost entirely funded by personal donations from Freedom Movement veterans and individual supporters. We carry on this work with almost zero institutional support, foundation grants, or philanthropic contributions. So if you find our CRMA site useful and worthy, please click donate to keep us alive and growing. You can donate via **check,** your bank's **Bill Pay** service, or **PayPal.** Thank you for anything you are able to contribute.

OUR SISTER SITES

SNCC Legacy Project (SLP). SLP preserves and extends SNCC's legacy. Although SNCC the organization no longer exists, we believe that its legacy continues and needs to be brought forward in ways that continue the struggle for freedom, justice and equality today.

Movement History Initiative. A collaborative effort by multiple organizations to build an integrated platform for preserving — and continuing to make freely available to the public — the history, thoughts, stories, strategies, images, videos, and materials of up-from-below peoples' struggles for freedom, justice, and equality. It is being created by veterans of the 1960s Freedom Movement and modern-era, grassroots social- justice activists in Black communities who share their lives-lived experiences from the inside-out to combat distortions, false-narratives and censorship. And to provide momentum for movement building today.

SNCC Digital Gateway (SDG). A joint project of SLP and Duke University, SDG tells the story of how young activists in SNCC united with local people in the South to build a grassroots movement for change that empowered the Black community and transformed the nation.

Black Power Chronicles. The SNCC Legacy Project created the Black Power Chronicles (BPC) in 2015 to help fill the informational void that exists in our historical record about the impact of the Black Power Movement in local communities throughout America.

SCOPE 50. Preserving Civil Rights and the Story of Voting. Website of SCLC/SCOPE project activists.

Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. Empowering the next generation, passing it on to carry it on by preserving the history of the Mississippi Movement.

Teaching for Change and Zinn Education Project. Provides teachers and parents with the tools to create schools where students learn to read, write, and change the world by promoting and supporting the teaching of people's history in middle and high school classrooms across the country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Protest to Power Podcasts . SNCC Legacy Project (SLP). The central theme of these visual podcasts is the ongoing effort of the Black community to achieve the power to define its existence in America.

Movement Art: If you are aware of any works of art related to the Freedom Movement such as paintings, drawings, murals, statues, and so on, please take a look at our Civil Rights Movement Art page to see if we already have an image of it in our collection. If it isn't included in our collection please email us an image we can post, or a weblink, or some other information that we can use. Thanks.

Movement Materials: Please continue to email to us documents, letters, reports, stories, and other Southern Freedom Movement materials from the period 1950-1970. *See* Submissions details.

WEBSITE REPORT

As of February 1st, our online archive contained 11,766 viewable pages, documents, images, and recordings, 486 videos in our Vimeo video channel, and listings for 696 Freedom Movement veterans.

According to Google, there were 37,266 visits to the CRMA website during January for an average of 1202 per day. This is approximately 15% higher than January of last year. There are 35,334 links on the global internet to our site.

On school days, our number of visitors ranged from roughly 600 to 1000 per day.

Roughly 35% of our visitors came from outside the U.S. in January. On average over the course of a year, international visitors used to comprise 15%-20% of our users. But starting in August of last year, there was a ten-fold increase in the number of visits from China and that continues to be the case. We are proud that our Freedom Movement of the 1960s is still of interest to people around the world and that our site still stands as a free, publicly-available, un-censored international information resource.

TOP-TEN MOST VIEWED

According to Google, here are the top-ten, most-visited sections and individual pages in January. (Note that Google does not count how often PDF files are accessed. Since most of our documents are in PDF format, the "Top Ten" lists are not all that accurate.)

Sections, Landing & Reference Pages

1. MLK Speeched & Writings,
2. Poems of the Civil Rights Movement
3. Freedom Movement Bibliography
4. C.R. Movement History 1950-1970
5. Freedom Movement Photo Album
6. Freedom Movement Videos
7. Roll Call of Freedom Movement Veterans
8. About the Civil Rights Movement Archive
9. Freedom Movement Bibliography
10. Our Words, Articles & Speeches

Individual Pages & Documents

1. The Other America, Dr. Martin Luther King. (1967)
2. *Everybody Can Serve,* Martin Luther King. (1964)
3. C.R. Movement History: 1961 (Freedom Rides, MS voter registration, Albany GA)
4. Poems of Langston Hughes
5. C.R. Movement History: 1960 (student sit-ins)
6. Poem: *Ain't I A Woman?* Sojourner Truth

7. Photo Album: The Children's Crusade: Birmingham (1963)
8. Alabama Voter Literacy Test
9. Photo Album: The Sit-Ins—Off Campus and Into Movement (1960)
10. Photo Album: Freedom Movement Posters

Top Ten Sections & Pages That Others on the Internet Link To

Google reports that out on the global internet there are 35,334 backlinks to materials on our site by people, organizations, grade schools, and universities using us as a trusted information resource. The Top-Ten linked to pages are:

1. CRMA Home Page
2. The Other America, Dr. Martin Luther King. (1967)
3. The Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR)
4. Are You "Qualified" to Vote?—Literacy Tests & Voter Applications
5. Public Opinion Polls on Civil Rights Movement activities, 1961-1969
6. *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story* Comic Book. (FOR)
7. C.R. Movement History: 1961 (Freedom Rides, MS voter registration, Albany GA)
8. C.R. Movement History: 1963 Jan-June (Birmingham, Greenwood, Danville)
9. Speech to Anti-War Protest, Dr. Martin Luther King. (April 15, 1967)
10. *Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence,* Dr. Martin Luther King. (April 4, 1967)

New CRMA Video & Audio

Our CRMA Video Channel on the Vimeo hosting service provides videos created by Freedom Movement veterans (or their immediate families) and videos created by others that are substantially about Movement veterans. When you visit the channel, please consider adding yourself as a "follower" for social-media metrics. Thanks.

New Audio recordings added in January

Questions About the Civil Rights Movement Interview, Bruce Hartford. 2025. 96min.

New Movement Documents

1957 *Declaration of Conscience,* Joint Statement on South African Apartheid. Rev. Martin Luther King, Bishop James A. Pike, Eleanor Roosevelt. Under Auspices of the American Committee on Africa (ACOA). New York, July 1957

62?63? Suggestions: Memo to Executive Committee and Executive Secretary and Chairman. Julian Bond, SNCC. Undated (1962? 1963?) 2 pages.

1962 Partial planning document, possibly for SNCC Spring 1962 conference [pages missing]. Unsigned SNCC. 3/27/62. 2 pages.

1962 Tentative Agenda Coordinating Committee Meeting, June 1 1962. Unsigned, SNCC.

1964 Hold On flyer opposes anti-circular ordinance. Unsigned Madison County (MS) Movement & CORE. January 1964.

1964 Letter to Johnson & Robert Kennedy re police harassment and brutality and suppression of voting rights in Canton MS. David Dennis,COFO/ CORE. January 30, 1964.

1964 Letter to Robert Kennedy re police harassment and brutality against voting right workers. Ed Hollander, CORE. 2/4/64

1964 Clinic on Non-Violence, report. Unsigned Louisiana CORE. 2/8/64. 2 pages

1964 Women in Poverty. DOL. July 1964.

1964 Memo: Number of People to Elect to State Convention From Each County. Unsigned MFDP. Undated (probably June 1964)

1964 Resolutions in Support of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, by state Democratic Parties. As of June 24. 2pages.

1964 Memo to Summer Volunteers re chain-letter campaign to Democratic Party convention delegates. MFDP Jackson Staff. 7/20/64.

1964 Memo to MFDP Workers, Communication & Research. List of, and request for research on the "Regular" (white-only) Mississippi delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City. Undated (probably June or July). 3. pages.

1964 Rules of Procedure, MFDP 4th District Convention. Undated (probably late July or early August)

1964 Write or Wire Today! Democratic National Convention Credentials Committee. Unsigned, MFDP. Undated August1964

1964 Essential Legal Points for Briefing the Delegates, for MFDP delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Undated August 1964

1964 Financial Authorization and Requisition form. CORE. October 1964

1964 LDF Mississippi Legal Docket (summary of cases). LDF. November 1964. 20 pages.

1964 CORE Southern Workshops. Unsigned, CORE. 12/24/64

1965 January Workshop; Other Matters. Richard Haley, CORE. 1/23/65. 5 pages.

65? Dear Friend, SNCC letter to supporters. Undated (possibly late 1965 or 1966)
66?

1967 A Minimum Wage Campaign for Local Groups. Unsigned (SRC?) 4 pages.

1967 Quarterly Report Community Development Program, Penn Community Services, SC. War on Poverty. April 1967. 6 pages.

1967 Nine City Minority Group Employement Profile, EEOC. Analysis of nonwhite employment in nine cities (Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City (Mo.), Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco and Washington.) 8/6/67. 34 pages.

1967 Memo on fundraising needs and trip, Jan Hillegas, FIS. 11/6/67.

1968 Poor People's Campaign Continues. Unsigned SCLC. 3 pages.

Freedom Information Service (FIS) Newsletters

October 6, 1967

October 13, 1967

October 27, 1967

December 1, 1967

December 29, 1967

WATS & Phone Reports (Log of daily phone-in reports)

COFO June 27, 1964. Oxford volunteer training, Jackson, San Francisco, Greenwood, Washington. 3 pages

SNCC June 28, 1964 New York, Illinois, St. Paul MN, Ruleville, Jackson

SNCC June 29, 1964. Jackson & Columbus MS, Enfield NC, Washington DC

SNCC June 30, 1964. Jackson, Biloxi, Vicksburg, MS, Selma AL, Washington DC. 2 pages.

Vietnam War, Military Draft, & GI Movement Documents

Demonstrate Against the War , April 27, 1965. Flyer. 5th Avenue Vietnam Peace Parade Committee.

Documents from the Northern Wing of the Movement

Peace & Freedom Party Organizing materials, Jan-Nov 1968. (20 documents)

Peace & Freedom Party Organizing materials, undated 1968. (8 documents)

Peace and Freedom Politics and Program. 1968(7 documents)

Joint organizing materials. Peace & Freedom Party and Black Panther Party. 1968. (3 documents)

Nine City Minority Group Employment Profile, EEOC. Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Kansas City MO, Los Angels, New Orleans, New York, San Francisco, Washington. Title VII Civil Rights Act 1964. 34 pages.

New Letters & Reports From the Field

2/10/65	Richard Haley, CORE	Letter to C.O. Chinn, regarding building in Canton MS

New Letters & Reports From Mississippi Freedom Summer

10/11	Letter to McGraw Hill, Eleanor Trimble re inclusion of son David's letters in Letters From Mississippi
11/2	Letter to McGraw Hill, Elinor Tideman re material for Letters From Mississippi
11/19	Dear Mr. Sitzer, letter from McGraw Hill re submission for Letters From Mississippi

New Stories & Narratives

Black Power Chronicles

Sylvia Hill,	interviewed by Joshua Myers. Florida A&M, Sixth Pan-African Congress, Southern Africa Support Project. Undated.
Topper Carew,	interviewed by Kwame Holman. SNCC, Roxbury, Boston, empowering Black communities. Undated.
William (Bill) Clay,	Interviewed by Tony Harrison. Homer G. Phillips Hospital, construction unions, Congressional Black Caucus. Undated.
Bruce Hartford	Excerpts From "Troublemaker" Los Angeles: 1963-1964 2019
Bruce Hartford	Questions About the Civil Rights Movement Interview, 2025

Affidavits of Repression, Retaliation & Violence

1960	Affadavit of Jim Taylor, regarding pond poisoning and barn burning after attempting to register to vote. Canton MS. 7/28/60 (year possibly incorrect)
1964	Affadavit of Melvin Moody, fired from job for attempting to register to vote. Canton MS. 1/27/64

New Articles & Speeches From the Southern Freedom Movement

'66-'67 Martin Luther King: Comments on Black Power

1968 Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution. National Cathedral, Washington, DC. March 31, 1968. Racism, poverty, & the world.

New Thoughts & Commentaries

Book Review: *No One Ever Asked, the Untold Story of a Civil Rights Worker,* Jo Freeman

In Memory, New Tributes

No new memories or tributes added this month.

Frequently Asked Questions, New Answers:

No new answers added this month.

New Poems

Peggy Trotter Dammond Preacely *Emmett Till: The WE of Him* [PDF]

New Photos, Art, & Posters

Mississippi: Into the Storm
In the Circle of Trust
Freedom Movement Art

Web Links and Bibliography updated, revised, & expanded.

Archive of Previous Monthly Newsletters

Recent Books by or About Movement Veterans:

Civil Rights Warrior: A Life on the Front Lines of Justice, Equality, and the American Dream, by Evelyn (Evie) Jones Rich. Skyhorse. 2026. Autobiography of CORE activist and leader.

Police Against the Movement: The Sabotage of the Civil Rights Struggle and the Activists Who Fought Back. Clark Davis. 2025. Princeton University Press. An examination of the civil rights struggle through its work against police violence, malpractice, and illegal surveillance such as the FBI's massive CONINTEL disruption and political-repression program. Describes CORE, SNCC, and other organization's direct action resistance to police abuses.

Spell Freedom: The Underground Schools That Built the Civil Rights Movement. Atria/One Signal Publishers (Simon & Schuster) March 2025. The little known story of how four activists in the 1950s created and built a semi-clandestine network of Citizenship Schools across the Jim Crow South. A network that formed a foundation for the Freedom Movement's voting rights battles of the 1960s. Septima Clark, Esau Jenkins, Bernice Robinson, and Myles Horton of the Highlander Center.

Mississippi's Black Cotton. By MacArthur Cotton and John Obee, foreword by Nikole Hannah-Jones. University of Georgia Press. May 1, 2025. A personal history of the 1960's Mississippi Civil Rights Movement by SNCC Field Secretary MacArthur Cotton, who lived it.

If Anybody Should Ask You ... This Is What Happened: A Memoir, by Gwendolyn J. Dennis-Mack. 2024. The personal story of an African American high school girl who joined the movement of young people to desegregate American classrooms in Deep South Georgia.

As always comments, suggestions, corrections, and submissions from Freedom Movement activists are welcome. Veterans of the Southern Freedom Movement who are listed on the website's Roll Call are encouraged to contribute to the website their stories, thoughts, documents, and memories & tributes of those who have passed on by emailing them in to us.

If you're not already a **subscriber** to the monthly email version of this newsletter, send us your email address and let us know you'd like to be added to the list. To unsubscribe (heaven forfend!) do the same.

— Bruce Hartford
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