CRMVet Newsletter

MAY 2026

Stokely Carmichael of SNCC giving a man literature about the Lowndes County Freedom Organization in Lowndes County, Alabama.

The photo appeared on page 67 of the Birmingham News on April 27, 1966.

CRMA
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ARCHIVE
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 1st, 2026

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Today is MayDay, 2026. Across the nation people of all races, genders, and walks of life are protesting and resisting the MAGA regime's drive towards authoritarian one-party rule.

Essential to MAGA's goal of returning us to the days of Jim Crow and robber-baron economics is the Power to Define the meaning of America. The Civil Rights Movement, and all the social justice movements that it gave birth to, shifted our culture from the norms of white-supremacy and privileges-ofpower that had ruled us for generations to shared goals of race, gender, religious, and social-equality as aspirational values of American democracy. Now the MAGA regime is trying to revert our nation back to White-Christian domination where all others are seen and treated as having a 'place' that is lesser and subordinate.

The Freedom Movement and its sister struggles employed grassroots, up-from-below, people-power to alter American perceptions and culture. And to eventually influence government and institutions. Now the MAGA regime is employing state-power to impose upon us their definition of who we are as a people. Through myriad means of coercion, the MAGA regime forces compliance with its definition of America. Books are banned from libraries and courses altered at universities, displays and flags are taken down, and people are hired or fired according to their alignment with MAGA political views. Laws and programs created to oppose race-based inequality are now being redefinedn and recharacterized as discrimination against white people; organizations and institutions are being shut down and criminally indicted.

One example is the recent indictment of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on specious charges o Home The Movement Movement Activists Resources About Us "fraud" by the Department of Justice. Founded in 1971, for decades the SPLC investigated, called out, and filed lawsuits against, white supremacist, hate, domestic terrorist, and extreme-right demagogues and organizations such as the KKK and Proud Boys. They worked closely with the Justice Department, other law enforcement agencies, journalists, and researchers who trusted their reports. Now, under new leadership appointed by the MAGA Regime, the DoJ is criminally indicting them for doing what they were established to do.

The administrative foundation of the SPLC indictment is National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-7) decreed by the White House last fall. It instructs the DoJ and FBI to establish federal-state Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) to: "conduct investigate, prosecute, and disrupt entities and individuals engaged in acts of political violence and intimidation." More than 200 of these JTTFs have already been formed across the country. Included in their definitions of 'violence' are: "anti-Americanism, anticapitalism, and anti-Christianity; ... extremism on migration, race, and gender; and hostility towards those who hold traditional American views on family, religion, and morality."

As the ACLU observed: "No wonder many in civil society see NSPM-7's rhetoric as a threat to human rights, civil liberties, and democracy-building work." And all indications are that a JTTF based in Montgomery AL played a significant role in the SPLC indictment.

Nevertheless, this Civil Rights Movement Archive and our Sister Sites remain committed to freely-providing to all an up-from-below and lives-lived perspective on the Civil Rights, Black Power, and other freedom movements that shaped not only our lives but American history and culture — to this day.

[Note: As this newsletter was being put together we heard that the Republican-dominated Supreme Court gutted the last remaining provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. They justified their ruling by echoing MAGA assertions that protecting the rights of nonwhite Americans is discrimination against white people. We will more fully address this matter in next month's newsletter.]

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.

WEBSITE REPORT

As of May 1st, our online archive contained **11,932** viewable pages, documents, images, and recordings, **502** videos in our Vimeo video channel, and listings for **697** Freedom Movement veterans. Google reports that out on the global internet there are 22,817 backlinks to materials on our site by people, organizations, schools, and colleges using us as a trusted information resource.

According to Google, there were **42,164** visits to our CRMA website during April for an average of 1405 per day. **This is approximately 15% higher than April of last year.** Google reports that out on the global internet there are 17,895 backlinks to materials on our site by people, organizations, schools, and colleges using us as a trusted information resource.

On school days, our number of visitors ranged from **800 to 1600** per day.

Roughly **29%** of our visitors in April came from outside the U.S. 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 sudden very large increase in the number of visits from China that continued through last month. This April though, the surge from China subsided, to be replaced by a surprising increase in the number of visitors from Singapore and Vietnam that together amounted to **16%** of our total traffic. While we remain puzzled by these up and down numbers from East Asia, we remain 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, publiclyavailable, un-censored international information resource.

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.

Now Available: *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.

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.

TOP-TEN MOST VIEWED

According to Google, here are the top-ten, most-visited sections and individual pages in April.
(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. Freedom Rides and Freedom Riders Resources
2. Poems of the Civil Rights Movement
3. Freedom Movement Photo Album
4. C.R. Movement History 1950-1970
5. Freedom Movement Bibliography
6. Our Stories & Interviews
7. Civil Rights Movement Major Topic Resources
8. About the Civil Rights Movement Archive
9. Documents: Selma Alabama and the March to Montgomery 1963-1965
10. Civil Rights Movement Web Links

Individual Pages & Documents

1. Photo Album: The Children's Crusade: Birmingham (1963)
2. Photo Album: The Sit-Ins—Off Campus and Into Movement (1960)
3. The Other America, Dr. Martin Luther King. (1967)
4. C.R. Movement History: 1960 (student sit-ins)
5. C.R. Movement History: 1961 (Freedom Rides, MS voter registration, Albany GA)
6. Photo Album: The Freedom Rides (1961)
7. Bigger Than a Hamburger, Ella Baker. Address: SNCC founding conference (1960)
8. Poem: *Ain't I A Woman?* Sojourner Truth
9. Poems of Langston Hughes
10. Photo Album: Young People Lead the War (1960-1961)

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

The Top-Ten linked to pages are:

1. The Other America, Dr. Martin Luther King. (1967)
2. Are You "Qualified" to Vote?—Literacy Tests & Voter Applications
3. The Plantation and the Oasis (Tougaloo College). Joan Traumpauer. 1961
4. Manual For Southern Medical Projects MCHR. June 1964
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 July-Dec (Mass Protests, March on Washington JFK assassination)
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 videos posted in April :

Mississippi: Setting the Stage, Wazir Peacock, SNCC. Presentation/Discussion San Francisco Freedom School. July 2010. 51min.

Annie Pearl Avery, SNCC. From the Freedom Rides to Bloody Sunday. 2014. 84 min.

Amelia Boynton-Robinson, DCVL. Recounting Bloody Sunday (Selma Al). 2005. 37 min.

Kathleen Bunton, ACMHR, Alabama Christian Movement For Human Rights. 1996. 34 min.

John Lewis, SNCC. From SNCC leader to US Congressman. 2005. 41 min.

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, ACMHR/SCLC. The Beginning of the Birmingham Movement. Interviewed by Howell Raines about Birmingham, 1998. 39min.

Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, ACMHR/SCLC. Birmingham Movement Part-2. Interviewed by Howell Raines about Birmingham, 1998. 33min.

Web Links and Bibliography updated, revised, & expanded.

New Movement Documents

1954 Letter to Thurgood Marshall, from Howard Epps, NAACP. Re segregation in Ashville NC city park. 7/21/54. 2 pages.

???? Social Change in the South Senior Honors Course. Willard Carpenter, college unidentified. Undated (probably 1960-1964)

???? Instructions to School Administrators in re Pamphlet Distributed. Ordering punishment of students who participate in some unidentified political activity. Sunflower County Mississippi Board of Education. Undated (probably between 1961-1964)

1964 Segregation, Harrassment, and Arrest for Negro Congressional Candidate. Re Rev. John Cameron, Hattiesburg MS. Undated (believed to be 1964).

1964 Workshop on Nonviolence, CORE. Monroe Louisiana. 3/28/64

1964 Mississippi: How Negro Democrats Fared June 2, 1964 Democratic Primary election. MFDP. Part I. 12 pages.

1964 Note to Norma Becker re Houghton-Mifflin books for freedom schools. MS. Robert Gottlieb, H-M. 6/2/64

1964 Letter to Donna Garde, UFT declining to make donation to freedom schools. M. Demming? Binny & Smith Inc. 6/5/64

1964 Note to Raymond Davis, Rust Coll. re donation of thumb tacks. James Weinberg, American Tack Co. 6/9/64

1964 Letter to Donna Garde, UFT declining to make donation to freedom schools. Walter Farley, J. Wiss & Sons. 6/11/64

1964 Letter to Donna Garde, UFT declining to make donation to freedom schools. T.W. Barron, Permacel co. 6/12/64

1964 Statement of Freedom Democratic Party on Sen. Douglas' Compromise Proposals, re seating of MFDP delegates at Democratic convention. 7/27/64

1964 Mississippi Freedom Democrats and the 1964 Democratic Convention chronologydiary. MFDP. August 1964. 2 pages.

1964 Future CORE Program in Louisiana, Citizenship Program, Expansion & Special Projects, Budget. Unsigned CORE. 9/4/64. 4 pages.

1964 Events in Mississippi, November 1 and 2. MFDP. Aaron Henry for Governnor. 11/2/64. 3 pages.

1964 Memo: Conference on November 6th & 7th. Ronnie Moore, Lousiana CORE. 11/3/64.

1964 Agenda: Staff Meeting, Louisiana CORE. Ronnie Moore, Joyce Johnson, Judy Rollings.

1964 Schedule for Staff Training Program, Louisiana CORE. . 11/6/64.

1965 Minutes of 2nd State Planning Meeting, Young Democratic Clubs of Mississippi.Tougaloo College. R. Hunter Morey. June 4, 1965.

1965 Executive Committee meeting announcement, Cleve Sellers, SNCC. 8/23/65.

1965 Memo: Next Executive Committee Meeting, Unsigned SNCC. 9/19/65

1965 Dear Ralph, unsigned note to Ralph (Featherstone?) re cancellation of SNCC September Executive Committee meeting. 9/19/65.

1965 Response to "defunct" excom members memo and difficulties attending ExCom meeting, Howard Zinn, SNCC. 9/30/65

1965 Dear Howard, note to Howard Zinn urging him to attend October ExCom meeting. Muriel Tillinghast, SNCC. 10/5/65

Documents from the Northern Wing of the Movement

3/14/54	NCADH	Address by Loren Miller to housing conference. Washington DC. 6 pages.
6/28/54	NAACP	Two letters regarding amusement park segregation in Allentown PA, NAACP.
12/8/54	CCHRP	CCHRP Membership Meeting notes. 2 pages.
12/11/54	NAACP	Two letters regarding city park segregation in Wilmington DE
2/14/55	NAACP	Four letters regarding city park segregation in Lansing MI from and to NAACP
2/14/55	NAACP	Memo re contesting will donating land to Detroit for a white-only city park, Thurgood Marshall, NAACP.
5/24/55	NAACP/ LDF	Letter from Robert Carter, LDF to Webster Posey, Cincinatti OH. Re appeals process.
June-July, 55	NAACP	Correspondence regarding skating rink segregation, and weak response by local NAACP. Muskegon, MI. 3 documents.
Fall, '55	NAACP	Correspondence about racism, bigotry, skating rink, and NAACP (some handwritten), Edward Balstead, Beloit WI. Constance Baker Motley, NAACP. 5 document, 9 pages
9/14/55	NAACP	Correspondence regarding a Jim Crow (Black-only) playground, Alex Folder, Forrest City, AR. 2 documents.
11/5/55	NAACP	Two letters re skating rink segregation case Muskegon MI.
11/15/55	NAACP/ LDF	Messages re relevance of Brown decision to segregation of recreational facilities. Robert Carter. LDF
11/15/55	NCADH	Letter to Mrs. Corienne R. Morrow re her case.
12/55	NCADH	Recent Developments in the Case of Mrs. Corienne R. Morrow. 3 pages.
11/18/55	AJC/ADL	Letter re Castle Hill Beach Club case in New York. Sol Rabkin & Theodore Leakes, AJC/ADL. 2 pages.

New Letters & Reports From the Field

3/14/54	Multiple COAHR	To Whom It May Concern, letter publicizing Atlanta student's Appeal For Human Rights.
4/20/64	Jack Minnis, SNCC	Letter to Ben Smith, COFO idea of challenging Mississippi's all-white delegation to 1964 Democratic Party Convention
4/22/64	Walter Tillow, SNCC	Dear Mr. Smith, letter to Ben Smith re building cooperation between the civil rights and labor movements.
4/28/64	Peter Marcuse, NYC	Dear Mr. Smith re out-of-state legal support for Freedom Summer
3/16/65	Stanley Parker (parent)	Letter to Chude Allen re Selma, AL

New Stories & Narratives

Annie Pearl Avery	Oral History/Interview, Birminghan Civil Rights Institute. 2014
Dr. Elizabeth Fitts	Oral History/Interview, Birmingham, Selma, SCLC, Tuskegee.

New Articles & Speeches From the Southern Freedom Movement

1967	The World House. Martin Luther King. 1967.
1967	Poverty and the World House. *Martin Luther King. 1967.*

New Thoughts & Commentaries

The Power to Define, Courtland Cox, SLP
Mississippi: Setting the Stage, Wazir Peacock. 2010.
Quotations From the Long Road Toward Social Justice, Bruce Hartford

Activist Roll Call, New Names

No new names added to the Roll Call this month

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

No new poems added this month.

New Photos, Art, & Posters

Freedom Summer
The Louisiana Movement

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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