

## SELMA TIMELINE

**1933** - Amelia Platts (Boynton) helps establish the Dallas County Voters League (DCVL) to encourage African American voter registration in Selma.

**1940s & 1950s** - Amelia and Sam Boynton and Marie Foster organize classes to help black Selma Residents pass literacy tests, but few are allowed to register.

**January 1963** - SNCC organizers Bernard Lafayette and Colia Liddell come to Selma and work with the Boyntons and local teenagers to revive voter registration efforts.

**October 10, 1963** - Freedom Day in Selma. 350 blacks wait in line at the court house to register. In three hours only twelve people are allowed to take the test.

**July 9, 1964** - Judge James Hare issues an injunction forbidding any gathering of three or more people sponsored by civil rights organizations.

**January 2, 1965** - Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) come to Selma to lead voting rights demonstrations.

**February 18, 1965** - During a night march in Marion, Alabama, Jimmie Lee Jackson is shot twice by a state trooper. He dies on February 26.

**March 7, 1965** - "Bloody Sunday." 600 nonviolent marchers are attacked by state troopers and sheriff's deputies as they cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

**March 8, 1965** - Martin Luther King issues a call for religious leaders to join him in Selma. Hundreds respond to his summons.

**March 8, 1963** - Three Unitarian ministers are attacked leaving a Selma café. Rev. James Reeb dies two days later. Three men are arrested but acquitted of murder charges.

**March 9, 1963** - Martin Luther King leads a second march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, but turns around to avoid another confrontation.

**March 15, 1965** - President Lyndon Johnson addresses Congress calling for a Voting Rights Act.

**March 17, 1965** - Judge Frank Johnson authorizes a march from Selma to Montgomery.

**March 21, 1965** - 3,200 marchers leave Selma on the first day of the five-day march. Only 300 people complete all five days.

**March 25, 1965** - 25,000 people join Martin Luther King in Montgomery for the last day of the march. That night Viola Liuzzo is shot by four Ku Klux Klansmen. They are later acquitted of murder charges.

**August 4, 1965** - Voting Rights Act is passed by Congress.

**August 6, 1965** - President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act.

## MARTYRS OF THE SELMA STRUGGLE



**Jimmie Lee Jackson** was a 26-year-old father of a young daughter and a deacon in his church. On February 18, 1965, he joined a protest march in Marion, Alabama, together with his sister, mother, and grandfather. When police and state troopers broke up the march demonstrators ran to nearby houses and stores for safety. Jackson and his family sought refuge in Mack's Café. Troopers followed them and began beating Jackson's mother. As he tried to protect her, trooper James Fowler shot Jackson twice in the stomach. He died eight days later. Speaking at his funeral, Martin Luther King called Jackson, "a martyred hero of a holy crusade for freedom and human dignity." On March 7 civil rights organizers began a march from Selma to Montgomery to protest Jackson's murder.



**Rev. James Reeb** was a Unitarian minister who left his wife and four children in Boston to answer Martin Luther King's call for people of faith to join the Selma demonstrations. After eating dinner at a local restaurant, Reeb and two other ministers were attacked by white men armed with clubs. He suffered a fractured skull and died from his injuries two days later. His murder raised a national outcry against racism in the Deep South. King praised Reeb saying, "James Reeb symbolizes the forces of good will in our nation. He demonstrated the conscience of the nation. He was a witness to the truth that men of different races and classes might live, eat, and work together as brothers."



**Viola Gregg Liuzzo** was a Detroit housewife and mother of five who came to Alabama to help with the Selma to Montgomery march. On March 25, 1965, after the conclusion of the march, she drove back to Selma with a young black man as a passenger. A car carrying four Ku Klux Klansmen tried to force her off the road and opened fire. Two shots hit Liuzzo in the head, killing her instantly. Her companion escaped by pretending to be dead. Three men were tried for the crime, but despite eye witness testimony, no one was convicted of her murder.

### Selma 50th Committee

Co-Director: Dr. Paul Murray  
Co-Director: Donald A. Hyman  
Treasurer: Rev. Sam Trumbore  
Administrative Assistants:  
Barbara Baxter  
Virginia Lanier

# SELMA

## 50th Anniversary

### A Celebration of the Continuing Struggle for Voting Rights



Saturday, February 28, 2015

1:00PM to 3:00PM

Swyer Theatre

Empire State Plaza



## PANELISTS

**Nell Stokes-Holmes** was born Alabama where she witnessed the Montgomery bus boycott. In 1963 she relocated to New York. Nell serves on the Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee of the Council of Churches. She volunteers at Giffen School and the League of Women's Voters. Nell is a playwright and poet; a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

**Anne Pope** grew up in the small town of Shubuta, Mississippi. She moved to Albany as a young woman and became active in the NAACP. Anne served as president of the Albany NAACP chapter for twenty years. She continues to work as a community advocate for fair minority political representation.

**Patricia Barbanell** served as a teacher in the Mississippi Freedom Summer of 1964. She has decades of experience in integrated arts education, multicultural programming, and technology integration. Dr. Barbanell is past president of the NYS Art Teachers and the NYS Council of Educational Associations.

**Mark Mishler** practices criminal defense and civil rights law in Albany. He has litigated cases involving police brutality, first amendment rights, and discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations. Mark has taught courses for the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations and Albany Law School.

**Paul Murray** is professor of sociology at Siena College where he teaches about the Civil Rights Movement. He has published articles on civil rights in scholarly journals and reference works. Paul has organized two civil rights study tours for high school and college students. He served on the Albany school board from 1990 to 1994.

## PROGRAM

### SELMA 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### Welcome

#### Invocation

#### "This Little Light"

#### Capital Region Youth Orchestra

#### Panelists

Nell Stokes-Holmes  
Anne Pope  
Patricia Barbanell  
Paul Murray  
Mark Mishler

#### "Oh Freedom"

#### Lucile Taylor

#### Keynote Speaker: Colia Clark

#### "Steal Away"

#### Sheila Miller

#### Keynote Speaker: Mark Morrison-Reed

#### "Dr. King's Eulogy for Reverend James Reeb"

#### Donald Hyman



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Mark Morrison-Reed** earned his M.A. from the University of Chicago and D.Min from Meadville Lombard Theological School. He served as co-minister with his wife, Donna Morrison-Reed, in Rochester, NY, and Toronto, Canada.

Currently he is an Affiliated Faculty at Meadville Lombard and Coordinator of its Sankofa Archive. In much demand as a preacher, he has spoken at nearly 200 Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Dr. Morrison-Reed's most recent book, *The Selma Awakening: How the Civil Rights Movement Tested and Changed Unitarian Universalism* came out in May 2014. It follows *Voices from the Margin* and *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*. His previous books include *Been in the Storm So Long*, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*, and *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*.



**Colia Liddell Lafayette Clark** has spent a life time as an activist in the areas of civil rights, human rights, women's rights, workers' rights and rights for homeless and youth.

During the civil rights era, Colia founded the North Jackson Mississippi NAACP Youth Council and was special assistant to Medgar Evers, Mississippi NAACP field secretary. Colia joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1962, building leadership for the voter rights movement in Mississippi. In 1963 she moved to Selma, Alabama, where she helped set up the Alabama Black Belt Voter Education Project. She later worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Birmingham and Chicago.

Among her many subsequent activities, Colia was the Green Party candidate for the US Senate from New York in 2010. She was inducted into the National Voter Rights Hall of Fame in 2011.