

Putting Racism on the Table

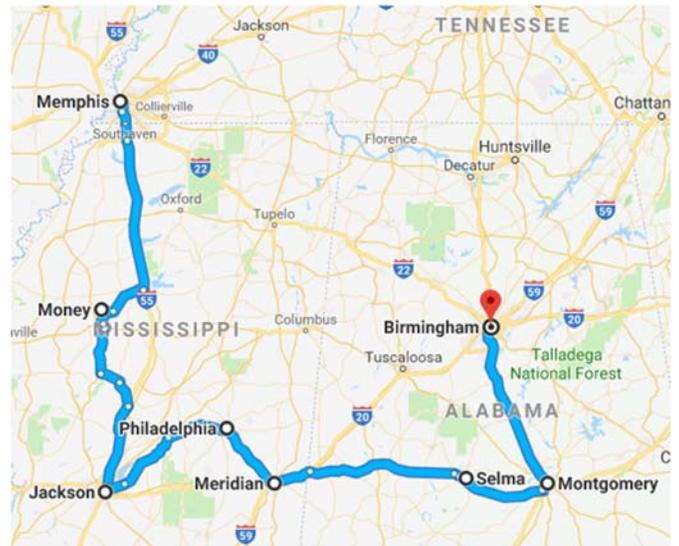
~Expanding the Table for Racial Equity~

Civil Rights Learning Journey September 23 – 27, 2018 Memphis, TN ➔ Birmingham, AL

Join us on a journey through history.

Throughout the *Putting Racism on the Table* series, we will underscore the importance of understanding the history of race in America. You are invited to explore history first-hand on a learning journey through the South.

This is an opportunity to build a deeper understanding of the movement for civil rights and racial justice in America. Over the course of 3.5 days, we will visit major museums, houses of worship that played significant roles in the activism of the 1960s, and sites of key protests. We will meet individuals who were leaders on the ground in the 1960s and those who are pushing for change today.



Details

Cost: \$3,500/per person

Included: All site fees; single-occupancy hotel room each night; all meals (except Tuesday night dinner); transportation to Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

Not included: Airfare to Memphis & from Birmingham; transportation from Memphis International Airport; Tuesday night dinner

Registration & Payment Deadline: June 15. By July 1, WRAG will confirm whether we have sufficient registrants for the trip. We recommend purchasing flights after that date. *Please see page 8 for our cancellation policy.*

Questions? Contact Rebekah Seder, seder@washingtongrantmakers.org

Sunday, September 23, 2018

12:00-5:00 pm: INDIVIDUAL ARRIVALS VIA MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MEM) (Memphis, TN)

Early arrivals have the option to enjoy a number of Memphis attractions. Music lovers, head to Beale Street for live Delta Blues, or tour Elvis Presley's Graceland or Sun Records. Memphis may be known for its great BBQ, but there are a variety of southern dishes to enjoy close to the hotel. Come early to enjoy the Southern hospitality on your own.

5:00 pm: PEABODY MEMPHIS HOTEL DUCK MARCH (Memphis, TN)

Every day since 1933, the Peabody Ducks have made the lobby marble fountain their home. In what began as a joke between two hunters, the twice-daily march of the ducks is now world-famous. Journeyers can enjoy the historic Peabody's Italian Renaissance design in its beautiful lobby, music on the grand piano, and cocktails before the group dinner.



6:00 pm: GROUP DINNER AT THE PEABODY MEMPHIS HOTEL (Memphis, TN)

Group introductions, agenda overview, goals, and expectations. We will hear from our journey guide, **Roscoe Jones, Sr.:**



As a 17-year-old student in the segregated, separate-but-equal, Jim Crow South of the early 1960s, Mr. Jones attended the Freedom School in Meridian, Mississippi, where he was a student leader. He served as the President of the Youth Chapter of the NAACP, served as the Co-Chair of the state-wide Freedom Summer Youth Convention, and participated in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. During Freedom Summer, Mr. Jones worked closely on voter registration efforts with slain activists Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman. A year later, Mr. Jones was in Selma, Alabama for Bloody Sunday. He returned to make the historic march, one of only 300, from Selma to Montgomery, where he watched Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., give a speech outside of the Alabama State Capitol. Mr. Jones will be with us throughout the trip.

Monday, September 24, 2018

9:00 am: MASON TEMPLE (Memphis, TN)

Mason Temple served as a focal point of civil rights activities in Memphis during the 1950s and 1960s. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his prophetic "Mountaintop" speech in this church on the eve of his assassination on April 3, 1968.

10:15 am: NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM AT THE LORRAINE HOTEL (Memphis, TN)

The National Civil Rights Museum is located at the former Lorraine Motel, where civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The room is open for the public to view as it was left by King that fateful evening. The museum is now led by former WRAG member, **Terri Lee Freeman**, who will welcome our delegation to the Memphis and the museum.



3:15 pm: BRYANT GROCERY & MEAT MARKET (Money, MS)

Bryant Grocery is ground zero for the Emmett Till story. On August 24, 1955, Till and several of his cousins and friends stopped at the store. Till was accused of flirting with Carolyn Bryant, a white woman working alone at Bryant's Grocery. After the encounter, Bryant's husband and his half-brother abducted, tortured, and murdered Till. Historians suggest that the murder sparked a level of outrage that helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, by drawing national attention to injustices in the South. Speakers include Greenwood, MS native **Sylvester Hoover**, Founder of Delta Blues Legends Tours, and **Patrick Weems**, Director of the Emmett Till Interpretive Center located in Sumner, MS.

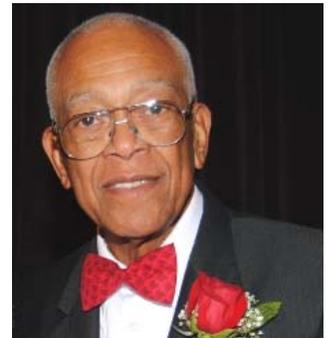
7:00 pm: GROUP DINNER AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN JACKSON DOWNTOWN/HISTORIC KING EDWARD HOTEL (Jackson, MS)

We will hear from:



Jerry Mitchell is an investigative journalist for the Jackson Clarion Ledger and the recipient of over 30 national journalism honors, including being named a Pulitzer Prize finalist. His work has helped put four Klansmen behind bars: Byron De La Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of NAACP leader Medgar Evers; Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers, for ordering the fatal firebombing of NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer in 1966; Bobby Cherry, for the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church that killed four girls; and Edgar Ray Killen, for helping organize the June 21, 1964 killings of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner.

Hollis Watkins is a lifelong activist and founder of Southern Echo. As a young man in 1961, Watkins became a member and organizer with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) where he worked on the Mississippi Voting Rights Project. He later participated in the first sit-in at the McComb, MS, Woolworth's lunch counter in an attempt to achieve integration, for which he was jailed for 34 days. He would later spend an additional 39 days in jail for taking part in a walk-out at a segregated McComb high school. Mr. Watkins is a founder and member of the Civil Rights Veterans of Mississippi, LLC.



Flonzie Brown Wright is an activist and former elected official. During the Civil Rights Movement, Ms. Wright helped register thousands of voters in Mississippi. She was the first African-American female elected official in Mississippi post-Reconstruction. She is a best-selling author of *Looking Back to Move Ahead*, which chronicles her journey growing up in a small Mississippi town through her work in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and 1970s. She worked directly with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and many other humanitarian activists, both locally and nationally. Her experiences are documented in a 1997 film entitled *Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders*.

7:15 am: MEDGAR EVERS FAMILY HOME (Jackson, MS)



As a field secretary for the NAACP, Medgar Evers traveled throughout Mississippi encouraging poor African Americans to register to vote, organizing demonstrations, and planning economic boycotts of white-owned companies that practiced discrimination. He also worked to investigate crimes perpetrated against blacks, most notably the lynching of Emmett Till. As the most visible civil rights

leader in the state, Evers and his family were routinely subjected to threats. On June 12, 1963, Evers was murdered in the driveway outside his home by a white supremacist sniper. Journeymen will be led in a conversation by local docents on the life, work, murder, and legacy of Evers and his family.

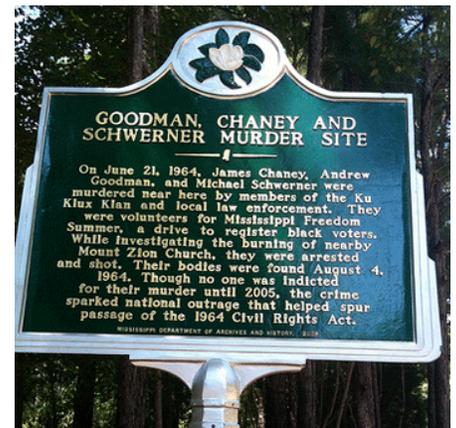
10:15 am: MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Philadelphia, MS)

On June 16, 1964, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church was burned down by the Ku Klux Klan. Before burning the church, Klan members severely beat several people who had been attending a meeting there. The burning led movement organizers James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman to investigate. A day later, each had been murdered by a group of Ku Klux Klan members. Journeymen will hear historical accounts detailing the church burning, the church's role in Freedom Summer, and the linkage between the church and movement activities.

Scheduled speakers include **Jewel Rush McDonald** and **Evelyn Cole Calloway**, both of whose immediate family members were beaten by the Ku Klux Klan the evening of the Mt. Zion church burning. Each will provide lived experiences detailing their time as children growing up in the segregated South, their choices to remain in the community as change agents, and their participation in the Philadelphia Coalition's work towards racial reconciliation.

11:40 am: MURDER SITE OF JAMES CHANEY, ANDREW GOODMAN & MICHAEL SCHWERNER (Neshoba County, MS)

After visiting the charred remains of Mt. Zion Church, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were arrested by city police, held in jail without phone calls, and ordered to leave town. During their drive, a group of Ku Klux Klan members, including law enforcement, kidnapped and murdered them on Rock Cut Road. Their bodies were then taken to a dam that was under construction, where they were buried. Their bodies were not found for 44 days, after an informant tipped off the FBI to their location. Journeymen will be led in discussion by a local historian whose work focuses on the details and fallout of the deaths.



We will hear from **Dr. Lindon Ratliff** of Mississippi State University – Meridian. Dr. Ratliff is a civil rights scholar and expert on the events leading up to and immediately following the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner.

12:30 pm: FIRST UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (Meridian, MS)

First Union Missionary Baptist Church has been called the headquarters of civil rights activities among Meridian churches. It was the location of numerous meetings and was instrumental in forming a group that served as armed watchmen to protect African American leaders and churches from Ku Klux Klan attacks. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke at First Union a month after the disappearance of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. Journeymen will be led in conversation by learning journey leader Roscoe Jones, Sr.

1:10 pm: OKATIBBEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH (Meridian, MS)

Location of the gravesite of slain civil rights activist James Chaney.

3:30 pm: BROWN CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH (Selma, AL)

Brown Chapel AME Church was a starting point for the Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965 and, as the meeting place and offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) during the Selma Movement, played a major role in the events that led to the adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Journeymen will be led in a conversation by church docents on the important and central role the church played in the Selma Movement.

4:30 pm: EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE (Selma, AL)



The Edmund Pettus Bridge was the site of Bloody Sunday on March 7, 1965, when armed police attacked Civil Rights Movement demonstrators with billy clubs and tear gas as they were attempting to march to the state capitol in Montgomery. The marchers crossed the bridge again on March 21 and successfully walked to the Capitol building. Journeymen will cross the bridge together in honor of the demonstrators that came before them, led by Roscoe Jones, Sr.

4:50 pm: SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MEMORIAL PARK (Selma, AL)

Located at the base of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the Selma Voting Rights Memorial Park provides a space to reflect on the Civil Rights Movement in Selma and beyond. The park includes monuments dedicated to the leaders of the Voting Rights Movement and trails through wooded areas draped in Spanish moss that leads to breathtaking views of Selma and the Alabama River.

7:00 pm: DINNER ON YOUR OWN (Montgomery, AL)

Journeymen are encouraged to enjoy Montgomery's restaurants on their own, many of which are located within walking distance of our lodging at the Embassy Suites hotel.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

9:00 am: THE ROSA PARKS MUSEUM AT TROY UNIVERSITY (Montgomery, AL)

Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum is an active memorial to the life of civil rights icon Rosa Parks and the lessons of the Montgomery bus boycott that brought racial integration to transportation and international attention to civil rights.

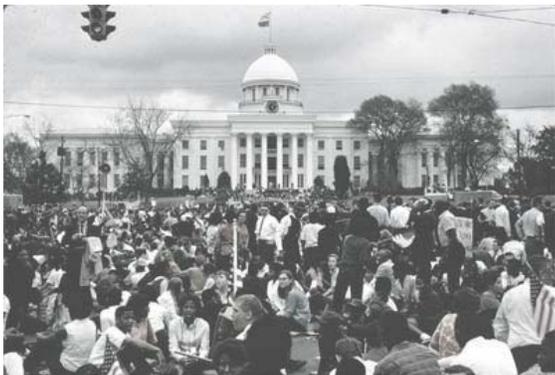
10:15 am: SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER (Montgomery, AL)

The Southern Poverty Law Center monitors hate groups and other extremists throughout the U.S. and exposes their activities to law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public. Journeymen will be hosted by SPLC staff to discuss the Center's current litigation as well as their work in different contemporary policy arenas.

11:15 am: SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER'S CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL (Montgomery, AL)

Created by Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin, the memorial is located across the street from the Southern Poverty Law Center's office building in Montgomery.

11:30 am: ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL (Montgomery, AL)



The Alabama Capitol building and grounds is a study in contradictions. The Confederacy began in the Senate chamber when delegates from southern states voted to establish a new nation in February 1861. A little more than a century later, in the spring of 1965, the Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights culminated here, with 25,000 people gathered at the capitol steps. A delegation from the protestors attempted to see Governor George Wallace to give him a petition that asked for an end to racial discrimination in Alabama, but they were denied entry to the capitol grounds twice and told no one would be let through. State police surrounded the capitol and prevented the marchers' delegation entry to the grounds.

1:00 pm: DEXTER AVENUE KING MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH (Montgomery, AL)

Dexter Avenue Baptist Church served as the backbone of the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the locally-initiated organizing efforts that would serve as a model for other grassroots civil rights demonstrations. The boycott proved how members of a black community could unite in resistance to segregation, and it heralded a new era of direct action. It also propelled Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. into the national spotlight. In this National Historic Landmark, journeymen will see the modest pulpit where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. began his career and first preached his message of hope and brotherhood.

2:00 pm: DEXTER AVENUE KING MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE (Montgomery, AL)

Dexter Parsonage has been the historic home to 12 pastors of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Between the years of 1954 and 1960, Dr. King began his career as a minister, emerged as a civil rights activist and leader during the Montgomery bus boycott, and began a family with his wife Coretta. The nine-room clapboard parsonage has been restored to its appearance when Dr. King and his family lived there. Journeymen will be hosted by parsonage docents.

3:30 pm: THE EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE NATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE (Montgomery, AL)



The Equal Justice Initiative, led by Bryan Stevenson, is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Journeymen will have a dialogue with EJI staff and visit the newly opened National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the nation's first comprehensive memorial dedicated to over 4,400 victims of racial terror lynchings.

7:00 pm: GROUP DINNER AT THE EMBASSY SUITES BIRMINGHAM HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER (Birmingham, AL)

Debrief discussion and "making meaning" dialogue led by WRAG journey leaders.

Thursday, September 27, 2018

8:30 am: KELLY INGRAM PARK (Birmingham, AL)

On May 2, 1963, more than 1,000 students skipped classes and gathered at 16th Street Baptist Church to march to downtown Birmingham, Alabama. As they approached police lines, hundreds were arrested and carried off to jail. When hundreds more young people gathered the following day for another march, the white Commissioner of Public Safety, Bull Connor, directed the local police and fire departments to use force to halt the demonstration. Images of children being blasted by high-pressure fire hoses, clubbed by police officers, and attacked by police dogs triggered outrage throughout the world. Despite the violence, children continued to march and protest in an organizing action now known as the Birmingham Children's Crusade. Kelly Ingram Park, located just outside the doors of the 16th Street Baptist Church, served as a central staging ground for large-scale demonstrations during the Birmingham Children's Crusade

9:00 am: 16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH (Birmingham, AL)

The 16th Street Baptist Church bombing was an act of white supremacist terrorism which occurred on Sunday, September 15, 1963. Here, four members of the Ku Klux Klan planted at least 15 sticks of dynamite attached to a timing device beneath the steps located on the east side of the church. Described by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as "one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity," the explosion at the church killed four girls and injured 22 others. A funeral for three of the four victims was attended by more than 8,000 mourners, white and black, but no Birmingham city officials. Journeymen will be hosted by 16th Street Baptist Church docents in conversation.



10:00 am: BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE (Birmingham, AL)

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and an affiliate of the Smithsonian, is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding of the significance of civil rights developments in Birmingham.

12:00 pm: LUNCH & GROUP DEBRIEF AT THE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE (Birmingham, AL)

2:30 pm – 6:00 pm: INDIVIDUAL DEPARTURES VIA BIRMINGHAM-SHUTTLESWORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BHM) (Birmingham, AL)

Lodging Details:

Sunday, September 23: Peabody Memphis Hotel, 149 Union Ave, Memphis, TN

Monday, September 24: Hilton Garden Inn, 235 West Capitol St, Jackson, MS

Tuesday, September 25: Embassy Suites, 300 Tallapoosa St, Montgomery, AL

Wednesday, September 26: Embassy Suites 2300 Woodcrest Pl, Birmingham, AL

Cancellation Policy:

Full payment must be received by June 15, 2018. No refunds will be provided after July 1, 2018. Please note that significant costs are incurred in planning this gathering, including contractual arrangements with hotels, restaurants, and speakers. We hope you will understand and respect this.