

CROSSROADS

WELCOME TO THE EXTENDED EDITION OF

CROSSROADS

A Message from Frances Pratt, President

Crossroads is the official newsletter of the Nyack Branch of the NAACP. As you know, the newsletter is mailed to members throughout the year. Due to increasing production costs, we are often limited in the amount of information we can share. We are happy to introduce *Crossroads: The Extended Edition!* The extended edition will be available on our new web site, www.nyacknaacp.org. You will find up-to-the-minute updates about what is going on in and around the branch. The addition of the web site is just one of the many things we accomplished during 2011.

Last year was a very active year. The branch was involved in a number of activities at the national, local and regional levels. We kicked off the year with a service honoring civil rights legend, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Another highlight for 2011 included our annual freedom dinner, which featured Ambassador Andrew Young.

We hosted regular monthly meetings of the Executive Board and informational sessions for the general membership and for the general public. The information sessions addressed a number of critical issues, including: racial disparities in school districts,

civic engagement, criminal justice, prisoner reentry and health and wellness, to name a few.

The branch leadership also met with elected officials in support of social service organizations facing severe cuts that would disproportionately impact people of color. The leadership also advocated for an end to racial profiling in the county.

The Nyack Branch also worked to raise awareness about racial disparities in the death penalty and supported national efforts to save the life of Troy Davis. Also, members joined some 25,000 New Yorkers as they stood for freedom, in defense of voting rights.

It is my sincere hope that you will enjoy the extended edition of *Crossroads*, edited by Dr. Lori Latrice Martin. It is also my desire that you will continue to support the branch by attending one or more of our scheduled events and by encouraging others to become members.

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Members of Nyack Branch Stand for Freedom

Branch Members Stand for Freedom

Over 25,000 individuals joined forces on Saturday, December 10, 2011, in New York to Stand for Freedom. Reflecting on the event, Ben Jealous, President and CEO, observed the following, “tens of thousands of people rallied at our Stand for Freedom mobilization in New York City to stand up against the forces trying to block the right to vote for millions.

It was a powerful way to kick off our campaign to protect our right to vote.

At the rally, I spoke before a massive crowd of people ready to stand up and fight for their rights as American citizens,” said Jealous.

Jealous added, “There in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza-in the shadow of the United Nations-we heard about the stark realities facing millions of Americans. Dr. Brenda Williams spoke of how she spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars helping her patients combat the barriers to obtaining state-issued ID in South Carolina. Anthony Papa talked about how it felt to learn that he would be ineligible to vote under laws that target the formerly incarcerated. One by one the speakers painted a picture of a shrinking pool of Americans who will be able to vote in the years ahead.

If we don’t take action to stop this, no one will.

In moments like these, the NAACP has always risen to the challenge, winning and preserving the rights we enjoy. Today those rights are in danger again. In 38 states and counting, strict new voter ID laws, restrictions on early voting and Sunday voting, and racially motivated bans on ex-felons have either been passed or proposed.

December 10 was International Human Rights Day. There is no better moment to recommit ourselves to the work of those who came before us. It’s our turn

to work to preserve civil rights for our children and for all future generations.”

Watch the video from Stand for Freedom Rally in New York City, and join the fight for voting rights. You may access the video at

www.stand4freedom.org/videohighlights.

WIN Committee to Host Exhibit

Women in the NAACP (WIN) will sponsor an exhibit and lecture on race, gender and social class in Rockland County. Specifically, the event will focus on the black middle-class in Rockland County in historical perspective. The event will feature an exhibit by sketch



Sketch artist Bill Batson

artist Bill Batson.

Join WIN on Saturday, February 18, 2012 in the Community Room at the Nyack Library. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. Space is limited. Please RSVP at nyackwin@gmail.com.

The discussion is the latest in a series sponsored by the committee. WIN hosted a discussion about prisoner reentry and an informational session focusing on fitness.

Nyack College to Hosts Social Justice Day Luncheon

Nyack College will honor Drs. Edmond and Susan Gordon, Honorable Ellen Jaffe, and Mr. James Kralik, on Friday, January 13, 2012 at the Nyack Seaport, 21 Burd Street, Nyack, New York at 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person. For more information contact Erica Videc at 845.675.4426 or Erica.Videc@nyack.edu by January 6, 2012. Advance reservations are required.

President Black Farmers Association to Speak at Annual Freedom Fund Dinner

The branch will host the 53rd Annual Membership Renewal, Recruitment and Freedom Fund Dinner on Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pearl River Hilton in Pearl River, New York. The



dinner will feature Dr. John Boyd, Jr. Dr. Boyd is the President of the Black Farmers Association.

Black farmers have fought long and hard to end discriminatory policies that denied black farmers loans and access to other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs. Thankfully, in December 2010, President Obama signed a settlement, which awarded \$1.15 billion dollars to tens of thousands of black farmers. A court recently upheld the historic and long-awaited settlement.

Honorable Hazel N. Dukes, President of the New York State Conference, will attend and receive special recognition at the event, also. For ticket



information, contact Voncile Oliver at 845.268.6626 or Maria Whittingham at 845.664.8492.

The theme is, NO STRUGGLES, NO PROGRESS.

Act to End Racial Profiling Gets NAACP Support

On Thursday December 8, 2011, Congressman John Conyers (MI) introduced H.R. 3618 the NAACP strongly supported “*End Racial Profiling Act*”. H.R. 3618 is the companion bill to S. 1670, which was introduced by Senator Ben Cardin (MD) in October 2011. The End Racial Profiling Act comprehensively addresses the insidious practice of racial profiling by law enforcement on five levels: first, it clearly defines the racially discriminatory practice of racial profiling by law enforcement at all levels; second, it creates a federal prohibition against racial profiling; thirdly, it mandates data collection so we can fully assess the true extent of the problem; fourth, it provides funding for the retraining of law enforcement officials on how to discontinue and prevent the use of racial profiling; and fifth, it holds law enforcement agencies that continue to use racial profiling accountable.

The House version was introduced by Representative John Conyers and 37 other Members of the House of Representatives on December 8, 2011. Please urge Members of both the House and Senate to co-sponsor and help move the bill through to passage as soon as possible.

Reflections on the Death of Troy Davis

The following are comments from President and CEO of the NAACP, Ben Jealous, on the execution death of Troy Davis:

When Troy Davis spoke his last words from the execution chamber, he challenged us all to keep fighting to abolish capital punishment in the United States.

A man of unwavering faith, courage and conviction, Troy never faltered in his pursuit to abolish the death penalty. Now it's up to us to fulfill Troy's final wish and end the unjust cruelty of execution once and for all.

The NAACP is building an army of supporters who will ensure that Troy's case is the last of its kind in the United States. Join us in strengthening this movement:

Troy is only the most recent in a long list of Americans who have been executed despite their innocence.

George Stinney became the youngest person to be put to death in the United States in 1944. Just 14 years old, he was executed after a South Carolina jury deliberated for just 10 minutes. Years later, evidence of his innocence that has never been heard by any court still exists.

Cameron Todd Willingham, a working-class white man, was convicted and executed for lighting a fire that killed his three children in 1991. In 2009, after decades of simmering public outrage, Texas took a second look. The state Forensic Science Commission determined that

the fire was most likely accidental. Like Troy, he maintained his innocence until the end, yet the truth did not spare his life.

The biases and discrimination inherent in the death penalty will never be cured. The only solution is to abolish it in America once and for all. And with your support, we will.

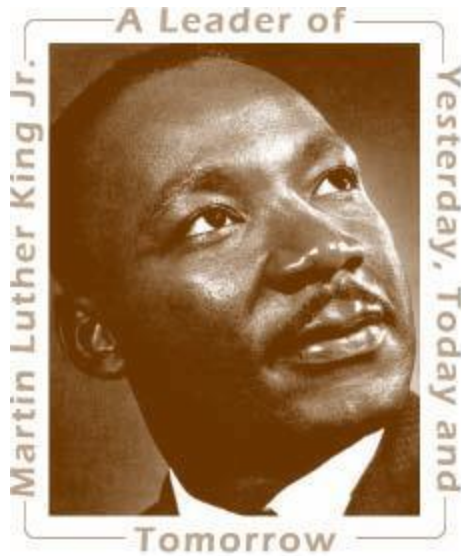
Our path forward is clear. Currently NAACP activists are optimistically engaged in state abolition movements around the country. We are convening teach-ins around the country and implementing an aggressive state-by-state agenda to end capital punishment for good. We're working with various groups around the country, and will host a national summit in Georgia to launch the next wave of activism.

Over the past two years, the NAACP and our allies have abolished capital punishment in three more states, bringing the total to 16. Now we've got to end it in 10 more. At that point we will have abolished state-sponsored execution in more than half the United States, and we will be in a position to ask the Supreme Court to outlaw the death penalty in America once and for all.

Over the past months, we knew you were there with us to help support Troy. Now, it would be our honor to have you as an official member of the NAACP, to help us grow this movement and make it even stronger. Will you join us?

Troy Davis left behind a legacy of faith and perseverance. Right up until the moment he died, he fought to abolish the death penalty. Now it's up to us to finish the battle that Troy started.

NYACK BRANCH CELEBRATES THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



MONDAY


JANUARY 16, 2012

2:00 P.M.

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH
80 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET
NYACK, NEW YORK 10960
REV. WILLIE HAIRSTON, PASTOR

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. MARVIN HOOKS, PASTOR,
ST. PAUL AME ZION CHURCH
SPRING VALLEY, NEW YORK

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP



Join the **FREEDOM** FIGHT FOR DURING OUR MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Membership is the life-blood of the NAACP. We depend on our members' generosity to insure the NAACP's independence. We depend on you to keep the flames of freedom burning bright!

1 MEMBER INFORMATION *(please print clearly)*

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Other _____ Date _____

 First Name M.I. Last Name

 Address _____ Apt./Suite _____

 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

 Unit Affiliation _____ Current Membership No. (if renewal) _____

 Phone No. _____ Email Address _____

 Are You A Registered Voter? Yes No _____
 Campaign _____ Solicitor's Name _____

2 MEMBERSHIP TYPE *(please check one)*

REGULAR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Adult (Ages 21 & older) \$30*	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Life (Payable in annual installments of \$25 or more) \$100** <i>(Ages 13 & under) _____ Date of Birth _____</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth with Crisis Magazine (Ages 20 & under) ... \$15*	<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Life (Payable in annual installments of \$50 or more) ... \$400** <i>(Ages 14-20) _____ Date of Birth _____</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth without Crisis Magazine (Ages 17 & under) \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Life (Payable in annual installments of \$75 or more) \$750**
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Corporate \$5,000*	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Life (Payable in installments of \$150 or more) \$1,500** <i>Only available to Silver or Regular Life Members</i>
<small>* Includes a 1-year subscription to The CRISIS Magazine</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond Life (Payable in installments of \$250 or more) . . . \$2,500** <i>Only available to Gold or Golden Heritage Life Members</i>
<small>** Fully-paid Life Memberships include a 10-year subscription to The CRISIS Magazine</small>	
<small>*\$6.00 per year of the membership fee will be applied toward your subscription to THE CRISIS</small>	

3 PAYMENT

Amount: Paid \$ _____ MasterCard VISA American Express Cash
 Credit Card Number _____ Check (checks and money orders should be made payable to: NAACP)
 Name as it Appears on Card _____ Expiration Date _____
 Authorized Signature _____ **Or Pay by Credit Card Online at www.NAACP.org**

Please send payments to:

Nyack NAACP

PO Box 448

Nyack, New York 10960

NAACP NYACK BRANCH

2012 CALENDAR

January -	14 16 25	14th – 1st Quarterly State Board Mtg. - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM – United Federation of Teachers (UFT), 52 Broadway, New York, NY 16th – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Service - 2:00 PM – Pilgrim Baptist Church, Nyack, NY 25th – Executive Board/General Membership Meeting
February	 18 22	Observance NAACP Founder's Day 18th - National NAACP Board of Director's Meeting - Marriott Marquis Hotel, 1535 Broadway, New York, New York 18th - WIN Exhibit on Race, Gender and Social Class in the Nyacks 22nd - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting Filing of 2011 Financial Report
March	 	Final time of filing 2011 Financial Report Region II Leadership Advocate Training (if not March, April) 17 th – WIN Discussion: We are One? Black Ethnicity and Social Justice 24th - Mid-Hudson/Westchester Regional Board Meeting – Middletown; 28th – Executive Board/General Membership Meeting
April	 26	55th - Freedom Fund Dinner – Pearl River Hilton, Pearl River, NY – 5:30 PM
May	 12 23	12th – 2nd Quarterly State Board Meeting – Location TBD 23rd - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting
June	 9 2 27	9th Annual Membership & Walkathon 2nd - Mid-Hudson/Westchester Regional Board Meeting – Northern Dutchess 27th - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting
July	 7-12 25	7th - 12th - NAACP National Convention - Houston, Texas 25th - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting

<p>August</p>	<p>11 22</p>	<p>11th - 3rd Quarterly State Board Meeting – Location TBD 22nd - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting</p>
<p>September</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>Beginning Process for Branch Election - Electing the Nominating Committee 26th - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting</p>
<p>October</p>	<p>5-7 24</p>	<p>5th – 7th – NAACP 76th State Convention (the nom. committee submits a written report) 24th - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting</p>
<p>November</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Branch Election for Officers, Executive Committee Members 28th - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting</p>
<p>December</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>12th - Executive Board/General Membership Meeting</p>