Delve Deeper Into American Civil Rights And The Question Of Race

This multimedia resource list provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by four upcoming P.O.V./PBS programs: "Fenced In: A Community Divided" by Slawomir Grunberg with Jane Greenberg (July 23rd 10pm), "Sweet Old Song" by Leah Mahan (July 30th), "Two Towns of Jasper" by Whitney Dow and Marco Williams (Fall special), and "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" by Nancy Kates and Bennett Laurenzer. Each of these explores civil rights and civil discrimination in the United States. (check local listings).

ADULT NONFICTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

These accounts of the Civil Rights Era are just a few of the books that portray a momentous time of great social change in America's history.


WEBSITES TO FIND INFORMATION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The civil rights websites listed below have been selected from the "Librarians' Index to the Internet" site at http://ilii.org/, a resource used by librarians to provide the general public as an efficient and reliable guide to Internet resources.

http://www.aclu.org/
American Civil Liberties Union Freedom Network.

http://www.tulane.edu/~amistad
Amistad Research Center.

http://www.civilrights.org/
Civil rights news and organizations

http://www.sitlins.com/
Greensboro Sit-Ins: Launch of a Civil Rights Movement.

http://www.usdoj.gov/kids/page/in dex.html
Justice for Kids and Youth.

http://centralhigh57.org/
Little Rock Nine.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/ goodbye/Scottsboro/
Scottsboro: An American Tragedy.

"Fenceline" by Slawomir Grunberg with Jane Greenberg
Norco, Louisiana is a true company town. Named after a refinery now owned by Shell Oil, Norco is home to two distinct communities—black and one white. Though separated by mere blocks, their realities are worlds apart. Nowhere is this clearer than in each community's response to possible links between the company's activities and the townpeople's illnesses. African-American residents, who believe pollution is increasing as their health goes downhill, demand to be relocated, led by the indefatigable Margie Richard. The white neighborhoods, largely home to employees of Norco, see no problems, and neither does the company. A modern David and Goliath story, "Fenceline" shows how one small community and one big corporation struggle to come to terms. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) and National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) Co-presentation. The program premiers on PBS Tuesday, July 23, 2002, 10:00 p.m. (check local listings).

ADULT FICTION

With the exception of Major's Dirty Bird Blues that relates the tough, gritty life of a young, black musician, these novels revolve around aging issues among African-Americans.


ADULT NONFICTION

Most of these titles, including Maya Angelou's classic autobiographical work, provide facts and insights regarding aging and its related ramifications and stereotypes. Peretti's book is a nice complement to the musical background of "Sweet Old Song."


BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

Children will embrace these stories that portray the aging process with grace, dignity, and humor.


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POPULAR MOVIES

"Golden Threads" provides the viewer with a groundbreaking, intergenerational look at the culture of sexuality, life choices, and aging. The other three films show the strong ethnic influences that have molded American music.


"Two Towns of Jasper." by Whitney Dow and Marco Williams.

In 1998 in Jasper, Texas, James Byrd Jr., a black man, was chained to a pick-up truck and dragged to his death by three white men. The town was forever altered, and the nation woke up to the horror of a modern-day lynching. In "Two Towns Of Jasper," two film crews, one black and one white, set out to document the aftermath of the murder by following the subsequent trials of the local men charged with the crime.

The result is an explicit and troubling portrayal of race in America, one that asks how and why a crime like this could have occurred. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) and National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) Co-presentation and an Active Voice selection

A P.O.V. premiere on PBS, in the winter (check local listings)

ADULT FICTION


These books treat racial violence and prejudice in a format that children can relate and comprehend.


These books provide powerful testaments to the destruction and horror of racial hatred and violence.


"Brother Outsider:" The Life of Bayard Rustin" by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer.

During his 60-year career as an activist, organizer and "troublemaker," Bayard Rustin formulated many of the strategies that propelled the American civil rights background, marking him again and again movement. His passionate belief in Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence drew Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders to him in the 1940's and 50's; his practice of those beliefs drew the attention of the FBI and police. But his open homosexuality forced his to remain in the as a "brother outsider."

"Brother Outsider" combines rare archival footage-some of it never before broadcast in the U.S.- with provocative interviews to illuminate the life and work of a forgotten prophet of social change. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) and National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) Co-presentation

A P.O.V. premiere on PBS, in the winter (check your local listings)

POPULAR MOVIES

Spike Lee's documentary on the 1963 church bombing in Birmingham and four other Academy Award winning films provide powerful testimonials to the destruction and horror of racial hatred and violence.

The two Stonewall films provide rousing historical documentaries of the gay and lesbian rights movement from the 1940's to 1969 (Before Stonewall) and from 1970 to the end of the century (After Stonewall). "Tongues Untied" revolves around the derogatory accusations, judgments, and labels that society places on black male homosexuals. "Eyes on the Prize" consists of 14 videos telling the story of America's civil rights years from 1954 through the mid 1980's. Spike Lee's production and direction of the movie about civil rights activist Malcolm X is excellent as is Attenborough's depiction of Gandhi and his non-violence philosophy.


BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

These fiction and non-fiction books for children and young adults provide memorable images of the Civil Rights Movement and the people who helped to shape it.


