

# 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: "Fenceline: A Company Town 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 Singer (Special). 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.**

Burns, Stewart. *Social Movements of the 1960s: Searching for Democracy*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990.

Carson, Clayborne et al, editors. *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader: Documents, Speeches, and Firsthand Accounts from the Black Freedom Struggle, 1954-1990*. New York: Penguin Books, 1991.

Hill, Herbert and James E. Jones, Jr. *Race in America: The Struggle for Equality*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993.

Kronenwetter, Michael. *Prejudice in America: Causes and Cures*. New York: F. Watts, 1993.

Perlmutter, Philip. *Divided We Fall: A History of Ethnic, Religious, and Racial Prejudice in America*. Ames, IA: Iowa State University, 1992.

San Juan, E., Jr. *Racism and Cultural Studies: Critique and Multicultural Ideology and the Politics of Difference*. Durham, NC: Duke University, 2002.

Weisbrot, Robert. *Freedom Bound: A History of America's Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Norton, 1990.

## 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://lii.org/>, a resource used by librarians and 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.sitins.com/>  
Greensboro Sit-Ins: Launch of a Civil Rights Movement.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/kidspage/index.html>  
Justice for Kids and Youth.

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

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/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—one 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 townspeople'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

*A P.O.V. premiere on PBS, Tuesday, July 23, 2002, 10:00 p.m. (check local listings)*

## ADULT FICTION

**These novels include compelling stories of racial injustice and discrimination based on geographical location and biases cultivated by ignorance and hatred.**

Campbell, Bebe Moore. *Brothers and Sisters*. New York: Putnam's, 1994.

Chesnutt, Charles. *The House Behind the Cedars*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1901.

Groom, Winston. *As Summers Die*. New York: Summit Books, 1980.

Guidry, Jacqueline. *The Year the Colored Sisters Came to Town*. New York: Welcome Rain Publishers, 2001.

Lamar, Jake. *The Last Integrationist*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1996.

McLarey, Myra. *Water from the Well*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1995.

Straight, Susan. *The Gettin' Place*. New York: Hyperion, 1996.

## ADULT NONFICTION

**From Frazier's 1957 classic "Black Bourgeoisie" to Luke and Foster's 2002 publication of "From the Ground Up," these titles provide engrossing reading on racism viewed from environmental, geographical, and socioeconomic standpoints. Racial issues in small towns as well as big cities are documented.**

Bullard, Robert D., editor. *Confronting Environmental Racism: Voices from the Grassroots*. Boston: South End Press, 1993.

Cole, Luke W.; Foster, Shelia R. *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*. New York: New York University Press, 2001.

Frazier, E. Franklin. *Black Bourgeoisie: The Rise of a New Middle Class in the United States*. New York: Free Press, 1957.

Goldfield, David R. *Black, White, and Southern: Race Relations and Southern Culture, 1940 to the Present*. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1990.

Jones, Jacqueline. *The Dispossessed: America's Underclasses from the Civil War to the Present*. New York: Basic Books, 1992.

McLaurin, Melton Alonza. *Separate Pasts: Growing Up White in the Segregated South*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1998, 2nd edition.

Robertson, James Oliver and Janet C. Robertson. *All Our Yesterdays: A Century of Family Life in an American Small Town*. New York: Harper Collins, 1993.

## BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

**These stories aimed at teenagers and children provide rich, sensitive portraits of people who are unfairly disadvantaged due to racial, economic, or geographical discrimination.**

Herschler, Mildred Barger. *The Darkest Corner*. Asheville, NC: Front Street, 2000.

Hewitt, Lorri. *Lives of Our Own*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1998.

Meyer, Carolyn. *White Lilacs*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993.

Raschka, Christopher. *Yo! Yes? New York*: Scholastic, 1993. [picture book]

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Dangerous Skies*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1996.

Taylor, Mildred. *The Land*. New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books, 2001.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side*. New York: Putnam's, 2001. [picture book]

## POPULAR MOVIES

**These three commercially successful feature films provide gripping plots that pit communities against powerful corporations.**

"A Civil Action." A film by Steven Zallian. Burbank, CA: Touchstone Home Video, 1999. (115 min).

"Erin Brokovich." A film by Steven Soderbergh. Universal City, CA: Universal Studios Home Video, 2000. (132 min).

"Silkwood" A film by Mike Nichols. Stamford, CT: Summa Video, 1983. (131 min).

"Sweet Old Song" by Leah Mahan

Howard "Louie Blui" Armstrong has been performing for most of his 91 years, ever since his father carved his first fiddle from a wooden crate. "Sweet Old Song" plays like one of the ballads that flow effortlessly from the funny and irrepressible Armstrong. At the film's center are the two great loves of Howard's life: his music and

artist Barbara Ward, age 60. Their two-decade romance has been a creative partnership yielding new work and an outpouring of memories. Their experiences are captured in Armstrong's lively paintings and stories of nearly a century of American life. As they take on life's challenges, Howard and Barbara defy our most basic assumptions about what it means to grow older. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) and National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC) Co-presentation

*A P.O.V. premiere on PBS, Tuesday, July 30th, 2002, 10:00 p.m. (check your 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.**

Brown, John Gregory. *The Wrecked, Blessed Body of Shelton Lafleur*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.

Ellison, Ralph. *Juneteenth: A Novel*. New York: Random House, 1999.

Gaines, Ernest J. *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. New York: Dial Press, 1971.

Hill, Ernest. *Satisfied with Nothin': A Novel*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Major, Clarence. *Dirty Bird Blues: A Novel*. San Francisco: Mercury House, 1996.

Mosley, Walter. *RL's Dream*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1995.

## 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 work is a nice complement to the musical background of "Sweet Old Song."**

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. New York: Random House, 1969.

Cole, Thomas R. *The Journey of Life: A Cultural History of Aging in America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Fischer, David Hackett. *Growing Old in America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.

Peretti, Burton W. *The Creation of Jazz: Music, Race, and Culture in Urban America*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1992.

## BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

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

Mitchell, Margaree King. *Granddaddy's Gift*. Mahwah, NJ: Bridgewater Books, 1996. [picture book]

Polacco, Patricia. *Chicken Sunday*. New York: Philomel Books, 1992. [picture book]

Thomas, Rob. *Slave Day*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.

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## POPULAR MOVIES

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

**"Buena Vista Social Club."** A film by Wim Wenders. Santa Monica, CA: Artisan Entertainment, 1999. (105 min.)

**"Golden Threads."** A film by Lucy Winer and Karen Eaton. New York: Women Make Movies, 1998. (56 min). P.O.V. Season 12.

**"Lady Sings the Blues."** A film by Sidney J. Furie. Hollywood: Paramount Pictures, 1992, c1972. (144 min).

**"The Mambo Kings."** A film by Jack Bernstein. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 1992. (104 min).

**"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 portrait 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

**Harper Lee and Richard Wright in their classic works and several acclaimed recent novelists recount stories of racial prejudice, violence, and murder.**

Gaines, Ernest J. *A Gathering of Old Men*. New York: Knopf, 1983.

Hunt, Marsha. *Free*. New York: Dutton, 1993.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1960.

Milofsky, David. *Color of Law: A Novel*. Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2000.

Wright, Richard. *Native Son*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1940.

## ADULT NONFICTION

**These factual accounts of racial violence and injustice are compelling and engrossing.**

Hirsch, James S. *Riot and Remembrance: The Tulsa Race War and Its Legacy*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

McWhorter, Diane. *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001.

Shapiro, Herbert. *White Violence and Black Response From Reconstruction to Montgomery*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts, 1988.

Swindle, Howard. *Deliberate Indifference: A Story of Murder and Racial Injustice*. New York: Viking, 1993.

Temple-Raston, Dina. *A Death in Texas: A Story of Race, Murder, and a Small Town's Struggle for Redemption*. New York: Henry Holt & Company, 2002.

## BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

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

Armstrong, William Howard. *Sounder*. New York: Harper & Row, 1969.

Campbell, Bebe Moore. *Your Blues Ain't Like Mine*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1992.

Krisher, Trudy. *Fences Spite*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1994.

Littlesugar, Amy. *Freedom School, Yes!* New York: Philomel Books, 2001. [picture book]

Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. New York: Dial Press, 1976.

## POPULAR MOVIES

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

**"Four Little Girls."** A film by Spike Lee. Santa Monica, CA: Direct Cinema Limited, 1998. (103 min).

**"In the Heat of the Night."** A film by Norman Jewison. Culver City, CA: MGM/UA Home Video, 1995, c1967. (110 min).

**"Mississippi Burning."** A film directed by Alan Parker. New York: Orion Home Video, 1988. (127 min).

**"Sounder."** A film by Martin Ritt. Hollywood: Paramount Pictures, 1982. (105 min).

**"To Kill a Mockingbird."** A film by Robert Mulligan. Universal City, CA: MCA Videocassette, 1984, c1962. (129 min).

**"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)

## ADULT FICTION

**Bayard Rustin was discriminated against not only for the color of his skin but also because he was openly gay. While American civil rights are most commonly associated with race or racial issues, our civil rights are also related to issues surrounding gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental handicaps.**

Covington, Vickie. *The Last Hotel for Women: A Novel*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996.

Gaines, Ernest J. *In My Father's House*. New York: Knopf, 1978.

Pinckney, Darryl. *High Cotton*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1992.

Raines, Howell. *My Soul is Rested*. New York: Putnam, 1977.

Shange, Ntozake. *Liliane: Resurrection of the Daughter*. New York: St. Martin's, 1994.

Williams, Dennis A. *Crossover*. New York: Summit Books, 1992.

## ADULT NONFICTION

**The life and writings of Bayard Rustin and other courageous leaders are highlighted in these works that detail the civil rights movement. Rustin's non-violent philosophy was based on the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, which can be explored in William Borman's book.**

Anderson, Jervis. *Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen: A Biography*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1997.

Borman, William. *Gandhi and Non-Violence*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1986.

Cashman, Sean Dennis. *African-Americans and the Quest for Civil Rights, 1900-1990*. New York: New York University Press, 1991.

Levine, Daniel. *Bayard Rustin and the Civil Rights Movement*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2000.

Olson, Lynne. *Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement From 1830 to 1970*. New York: Scribner, 2001.

Rustin, Bayard. *Down the Line: The Collected Writings of Bayard*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1971.

## 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.**

Gallan, David, editor. *Malcolm A to X: The Man and His Ideas*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 1992.

Haskins, James. *Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1997.

Klass, David. *Danger Zone*. New York: Scholastic, 1996.

Loribekki, Marybeth. *Sister Anne's Hands*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998. [picture book]

Powledge, Fred. *Free at Last? The Civil Rights Movement and the People Who Made It*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1991.

Taylor, Mildred D. *The Gold Cadillac*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1987.

Wiles, Debbie. *Freedom Summer*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001. [picture book]

## POPULAR MOVIES

**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.**

**"Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community."** A film by Greta Schiller and Robert Rosenberg. New York: Cinema Guild, 1985. (87 min).

**"After Stonewall."** A film by John Scagliotti, Janet Baus, and Dan Hunt. New York: First Run Features, 1999. (88 min).

**"Eyes on the Prize."** A film by Judy Vecchione. Alexandria, VA: PBS Video, 1993, c. 1986. 14 videos, (60 min. each).

**"Gandhi."** A film by Richard Attenborough. Burbank, CARCA/ Columbia Pictures Home Video, c. 1990, 1982. (187 min).

**"Malcolm X."** A film by Spike Lee. Burbank, CA: Warner Home Video, 1992. (201 min).

**"Tongues Untied."** A film by Marlon Riggs. Santa Francisco, CA: Frameline, 1989. (55 min). P.O.V. 1989 Season.