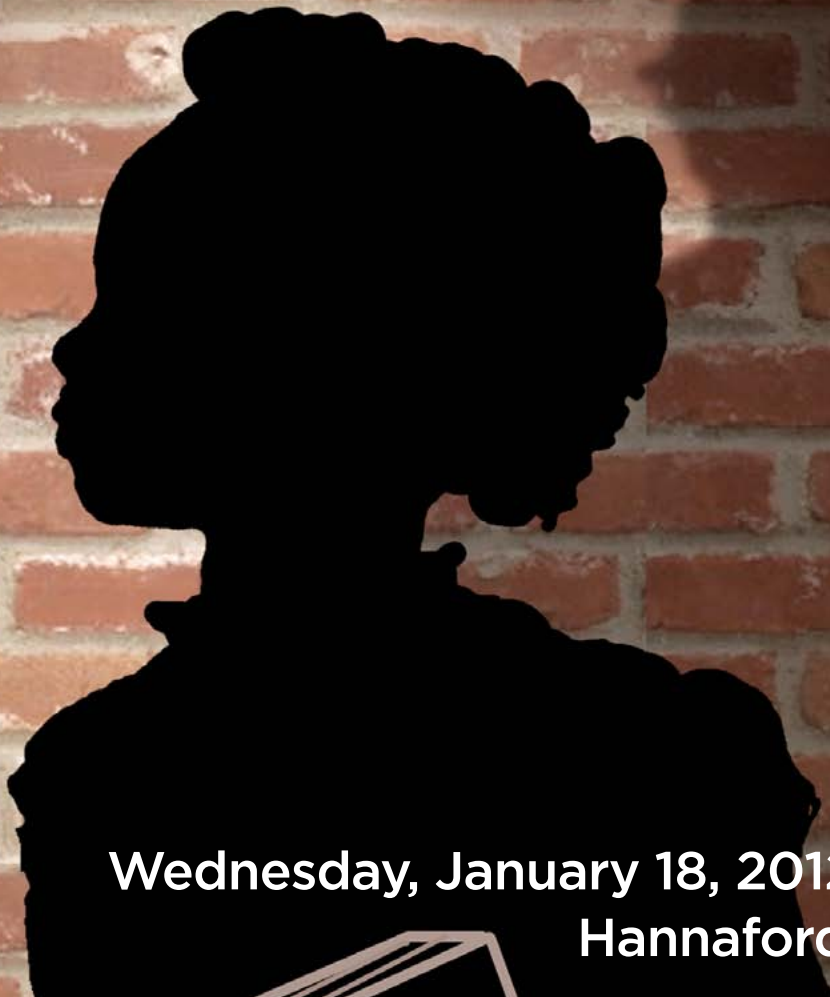


OVATIONS OFFSTAGE

presents

A Study Guide for the
School-Time Performance

WARRIORS DON'T CRY



Wednesday, January 18, 2012 • 10 am & 7:30 pm
Hannaford Hall, USM Portland



PORTLAND
OVATIONS



Study guides are also available
on the Portland Ovation website at
http://portlandovations.org/offstage/study_guides

Welcome to Portland Ovations

Each year since 1931, Portland Ovations, formerly known as the PCA Great Performances, has brought a dynamic season of exceptional performing artists to Portland, Maine, including classical music, jazz, opera, dance, theater, and Broadway.

In addition to our live performances, we bring the exhilaration of the performing arts out into our community with season-long educational and outreach programs called Ovations Offstage.

Ovations Offstage creates those magical resonating moments when artists and audiences connect. Whether it's an unexpected "art happening," a workshop or masterclass with a visiting artist, a lively community discussion, or a pre-performance lecture, Portland Ovations invites you to join us as we explore together the relevance and connection of the performing arts to our lives.

Portland Ovations...

- believes that cultural enrichment should be accessible to all
- provides quality live performances and education experiences
- engages our community with integrity and compassion
- collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote cultural enrichment and lifelong learning
- celebrates the power and virtuosity of the performing arts
- sustains a staff and board who are thoughtful, committed, enthusiastic and fiscally responsible



“Warriors Don’t Cry” Study Guide

This guide includes information about the specific performance you and your students are about to see; contextual background about the art form; broader historic and cultural connections; suggested activities designed to engage and sustain your students' interest before, during, and after the show; as well as a number of resources to help you extend your exploration. Also included are connections to Common Core State Standards.

Use of this guide will help your students to anticipate, investigate, and reflect upon your live performance experience.



Artists



Author: Melba Pattillo Beals recounted her experience at Central High School in her award winning book *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Desegregate Little Rock's Central High School*.

Dr. Beals grew up surrounded by family members who knew the importance of education. Her mother, Lois, was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the University of Arkansas in 1954. While attending all-black Horace Mann High School, Dr. Beals knew her educational opportunities were not equal to her white counterparts' at Central High, leading her to be a part of the effort to integrate that school. She recalled that the soldier assigned to protect her instructed her that "In order to get through this year, you will have to become a soldier. Never let your enemy know what you are feeling." She took the soldier's advice, finishing the school year. Barred from returning to Central the following year when the city's schools were closed, Dr. Beals moved to

Santa Rosa, California, to live with a sponsoring family, Dr. & Mrs. George McCabe, who were members of the NAACP, for her senior year of high school.

Dr. Beals graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in journalism, and earned an MA from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, in New York, and earned her Ph.D. from the University of San Francisco. She has worked as a reporter for San Francisco's public television station and for the Bay area's NBC affiliate. She has written numerous articles for periodicals including *People*, *Essence* and the *San Francisco Examiner*. In addition, Dr. Beals is the author of *White is a State of Mind*, a sequel to *Warriors Don't Cry*.

Dr. Beals is a recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, the Spingarn Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal, and she is a much sought after communications consultant and motivational speaker. Dr. Beals is Chair of the Communications Department at Dominican University, in San Rafael, California.

Artists, cont.

Actor: Almeria Campbell earned her MFA from Rutgers Mason Gross School of the Arts and her BFA at Texas Christian University. You may have seen her recently in the national McDonald's spot for the new chicken wrap alongside some of her fellow alums. Her television credits include: *Law and Order Criminal Intent* and you can catch her in the upcoming feature film comedy *Baby Mama*. She's acted off Broadway in *Blackout*, a Cell Theatre production where she is also an active member. Amphibian acting credits include: *Leonce and Lena*. She has also done voice-overs, commercials and numerous productions as an MFA where she studied with William Esper. Currently she is managed under Vincent C. and is working her development muscles as writer/producer of her own original pilot under her newly formed production company. She is a singer and certified trainer in NYC.



Director: Richard C. Aven holds a B.A. in music & and an M.A. in renaissance literature (Michigan State University), as well as an M.F.A. in theatre (The Theatre School, DePaul University). In 1995, he co-authored *Acting: Preparation, Practice and Performance* with Dr. Bella Itkin, an in-depth application of sensory technique to text. Beginning as a conductor with more than 40 musicals under his belt, Richard initiated his directing career in Michigan with a production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Since then he has directed productions of Hellman, Coward, Shepard, Shakespeare, & Chekhov, among others. In March he directed *The Designated Hitter* by David Magee for Mile Square's 7th Inning Stretch series. In the past year, he had the pleasure of directing readings of plays by Myrton Running Wolf, Billy Aronson, Nina Ki, and Christopher Cartmill for Mixed Phoenix Theatre Group. As Associate Artistic Director of MPTG, Richard will be co-producing and directing in the Third Annual Play Reading series in October.

Performance

Warriors Don't Cry is a one-woman play, based on the civil rights memoir of the same name by Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals. As one of the Little Rock Nine who integrated Central High School in 1957, Melba Patillo and her eight fellow student-warriors captured the world's attention as they endured untold hatred and violence in pursuit of an education equal to that of their white counterparts.

Each performance is preceded by a brief introduction by a teaching artist who travels with the company, and concludes with an interactive Q & A with the audience facilitated by the teaching artist and the actress.

***Warriors Don't Cry* contains historically accurate language.**

The events depicted in *Warriors Don't Cry* are more than fifty years old. Great progress has been made in that time, but much work has yet to be done. A scan of contemporary headlines reveals topics which relate to the ongoing struggle for civil rights:

- Bullying
- Use of derogatory language
- Female empowerment
- Civil Rights
- Race Relations
- Educational Achievement

Watch a clip of the performance: <http://youtu.be/NZXZ2ZzLJtk>

Learn about the process of adapting a book for the stage and the challenges of a one-woman play in this three part interview with Zita Christian, Richard C. Aven, and Almeria Campbell: "Page 1 with Zita Christian- Warriors Don't Cry"

- Part 1: <http://youtu.be/BqOmiE2eXb4>
- Part 2: <http://youtu.be/p2QIOuVL850>
- Part 3: <http://youtu.be/MQ89GjBDeFg>

Civil Rights Milestones

Milestones in African American Social Justice and Civil Rights in the United States: 1930-2010
(events in **bold** relate to Maine)

Assembled by Marieke Van Der Steenhoven for Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine Spring 2011

- 1935: Mary McLeod Bethune organizes the National Council of Negro Women, a coalition of black women's groups that lobbies against job discrimination, racism, and sexism.
- 1936: Inter-Racial Fellowship of America founded in Portland to promote justice, amity, and understanding among races and religions.**
- 1939: Marian Anderson, barred by the Daughters of the American Revolution from singing in Washington D.C.'s Constitution Hall, sings to 75,000 people at Lincoln Memorial instead. Also that year the Legal Defense Fund established as the legislative arm of the NAACP. A year later the two become separate organizations.
- 1941: President Roosevelt issues executive order 8802 that declared, "There shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries and in Government, because of race, creed, color, or national origin." The order also established the Fair Employment Practices Commission to enforce the new policy.
- 1942: The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded.
- 1947: Jackie Robinson becomes first African American to play major league baseball.
- 1952: First time in 71 years no African American lynching, according to Tuskegee Institute.
- 1952: Beverly E. Dodge of Portland High School faced discrimination during class trip to Washington D.C., Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith intervenes.**
- 1954: Thurgood Marshall heads the NAACP/Legal Defense Fund team winning the ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.
- 1955: August - In Mississippi, 14 year old Emmett Till is brutally murdered based on his race. December - In Alabama, Rosa Parks refuses to give up her bus seat to a white man, precipitating the Montgomery bus boycott, led by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 1956: Montgomery bus boycott ends in victory, Supreme Court rules segregation on buses illegal.
- 1957: Efforts to integrate Little Rock, Ark., Central High School meet with legal resistance and violence; federal troops mobilize to protect the nine African American students at the high school from mobs of protesters.
- 1960: February 1, Lunch counter sit-ins begin in the South; the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded.
- 1961: NAACP branch established in Lewiston and Brunswick.**
- 1963: On August 28, over 25,000 people participate in the March on Washington, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers "I Have a Dream" speech. Later that year King receives the Nobel Peace Prize. **400 people march in Portland because of Birmingham, AL murders. Also that year, Harold Richardson elected to the Portland Water District Board making him the first African American elected to public office in Maine.**
- 1964: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bayard Rustin speak in Maine.**

Civil Rights Milestones, cont.

- 1965: Malcolm X is assassinated.
- 1965: Fair Housing Bill and The Voting Rights Act become law.
- 1966: Pine Tree Legal Assistance established to promote access to justice by providing free legal assistance responsive to the immediate needs of individual low-income clients and to address the long-range barriers to justice affecting low-income people.**
- 1967: Congress enacts the Age Discrimination Act prohibiting employment and housing discrimination against older Americans.
- 1967: Race riots erupt in Detroit, followed by 164 other racial disturbances across the country, including major riots in Tampa, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Newark, Plainfield and Brunswick, New Jersey, which kill at least 83 people. Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American justice of the Supreme Court.
- 1968: April 4, Martin Luther King, Jr. is murdered. On April 11, President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, aimed at curbing discrimination in housing. June 6, Sen. Robert Kennedy, campaigning for the Democratic nomination for president, is shot and killed in a Los Angeles hotel. Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-N.Y.) is the first African American woman elected to Congress.
- 1969: Maine Civil Liberties Union founded.**
- 1971: Maine Human Rights Act passed and Commission established, Robert Talbot named executive director.**
- 1972: Gerald E. Talbot first African American elected to Maine legislature; First Miss Black Teenager pageant.**
- 1973: Congress passes Section 504 of the Vocation Rehabilitation Act barring discrimination against disabled people with the use of federal funds.
- 1977: Legislature to remove racially offensive place names in Maine passed.**
- 1978: The Supreme Court, in the Regents of the University of California v. Bakke case, upholds the principle of affirmative action but rejects fixed racial quotas as unconstitutional.
- 1982: The Equal Rights Amendment falls three states short of ratification. Also that year, Supreme Court rules in Plyer v. Doe that children of illegal immigrants have a right to free public schooling. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is extended and strengthened by Congress, barring laws that dilute the voting power of minorities.
- 1988: President Reagan vetoes the Civil Rights Restoration Act.
- 1988: William D. Burney, Jr. elected Mayor of Augusta, first African American mayor in Maine and Northern New England.**
- 1989: Douglas Wilder of Virginia is the first African American to be elected state governor.
- 1989: The Supreme Court, in a series of rulings, severely restricts the reach of federal anti-discrimination employment laws and remedies available to fight bias. The move prompts congressional effort to craft new law overturning the Court decision.
Legislature passes Maine Civil Rights Act.
- 1990: Americans With Disabilities Act established, banning job discrimination against people with disabilities and requiring buildings, businesses, and public transportation to be accessible.

Civil Rights Milestones, cont.

- 1991: Passage of An Act to Prohibit Educational Discrimination.**
- 1992: Voting Rights Act bilingual provisions are extended to 2007.
- 1994: In Adarand, the Supreme Court ruled for the first time that all federal laws creating racial classifications, regardless of an intention to burden or benefit minorities, when challenged, must be tested by the same stringent standard.
- 1994: "Anchor of the Soul" (video) becomes available.**
- 1995: Maine Roots by Bob Greene and The Bridge edited by Leonard W. Cummings, Sr. published; Gerald E. Talbot donates his collection to the University of Southern Maine.**
- 1996: The California Civil Rights Initiative passes and similar initiatives spread to numerous cities and states across the country. **Sallie Chandler becomes first black woman to be elected to public office in Maine when she is elected as town clerk in Lebanon.**
- 1996: A forced a vote on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in the 104th Congress, while the bill enjoyed wide bi-partisan support, failing in the Senate by only one vote.
- 1997: Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine established.**
- 1998 and 1999: In Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District and Davis v. Monroe County School District, the Supreme Court makes clear that Title IX requires schools to take action to prevent and stop the harassment of students by teachers or other students.
- 2000: The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) enacted, a federal statute that provides stronger protection for religious freedom in prison contexts. January 17, in Columbia, South Carolina over 50,000 people gather to protest the flying of the Confederate Battle Flag. This is the largest civil rights demonstration ever held in the South to date. Elections raise a new set of concerns about minority voting rights --Asian American, Haitian American, Latino, and other language minority voters report that they were denied language assistance to which they were entitled. These and other irregularities trigger calls for federal election reform legislation to address both procedural and technological barriers to voting participation.
- 2000: Rick Lawrence becomes the first African American judge in Maine.**
- 2003: 4,500 people attend a diversity rally in Lewiston, supporting Somalian community.**
- 2004: Jill Duson sworn in as the first African American mayor of Portland.**
- 2005: Representative Herb Adams received the Maine People's Alliance "Against the Tide" award for his defense of voting rights and social justice issues.**
- 2006: The reauthorized Voting Rights Act is named the "Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, and Cesar Chavez Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006."
- 2007: Rabbi Harry Z. Sky awarded Jean Byers Sampson Center Catalyst for Change Award.**
- 2008: Barack Hussein Obama II is elected the 44th and current President of the United States. He is the first African American to hold the office.
- 2009: Sallie Chandler awarded Jean Byers Sampson Center Catalyst for Change Award.**
- 2010: Gerald E. Talbot named winner of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Local Connections

The Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine

The University of Southern Maine's Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine collects material documenting the ongoing histories of diverse communities. Current collections represent the African American, Jewish, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities. The Center promotes diversity and civil rights through research, education, and outreach.

The African American presence in Maine dates from the United States' early colonial period. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, strong African American communities in Portland, Bangor, and other areas, have struggled for prosperity, civil rights, and equality, and have made important contributions to the culture and economy of the state. There are no other collections of extensive breadth or depth that reflect the presence of this community. The University of Southern Maine Library has established and is developing a broad-based collection of manuscripts, printed works, visual material, audio material, and artefacts representing the full historical and cultural record of the African American experience in Maine and its connections with the experience of African Americans regionally and nationally.

The mission of the African American Collection of Maine is as follows: to provide a repository for the collection and preservation of a variety of records documenting Maine's African Americans; to emphasize the importance of such material; organize and catalog this material making it available to scholars, teachers, students of all ages, and the general public; to sponsor educational programs and exhibitions within and beyond the University of Southern Maine about Maine's African American community and history; to generate scholarship; and, to work with other institutions in reaching the above goals.

Online at: <http://library.usm.maine.edu/specialcollections/index.html>

Exhibit Catalogues from the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity at the University of Southern Maine:

Diversity at the Ballot Box: Electoral Politics and Maine's Minority Communities, Post WWII to the present (2008).

Includes "Quiet Revolution: A Tally of Black Victories" an essay by Bob Greene recounting the presence of African Americans in Maine politics. Accessible online: <http://library.usm.maine.edu/pdfs/speccoll/SampsonCenterBook2008.pdf>

Liberating Visions: Religion and the Challenge of Change in Maine, 1820 to the present (2006).

Includes "There's a Blessing in Pressing:" Change in Maine's African American Churches" an essay by Maureen Elgersman Lee about African American churches in Maine. Accessible online: <http://library.usm.maine.edu/pdfs/speccoll/SampsonCenterBookall.pdf>

The Ties That Bind: Experience of Family in Maine, 1900 to the present (2005).

Includes "Migration, Mortality, and Maturation: Three African American Families of Bangor and Portland" by Maureen Elgersman Lee. Accessible online: http://library.usm.maine.edu/specialcollections/pdfs/Sampson_Center_Book.pdf

Local Connections, cont.

Other Resources at the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity:

Anchor of the Soul Collection. African American Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. University of Southern Maine Libraries.

NAACP Maine Archives. African American Collection of Maine, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Jean Byers Sampson Papers. Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Rabbi Harry Z. Sky Collection. Judaica Collection, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Gerald E. Talbot Collection. African American Collection of Maine, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Visible Black History Archives. African American Collection of Maine, Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine. University of Southern Maine Libraries.

Contact Information for the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine:

Susie R. Bock

Head of Special Collections, and Director of the Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine

314 Forest Ave

P.O. Box 9301

Portland, ME 04104

(207)780-4269

bocks@usm.maine.edu

Local Connections, cont.

Maine Historical Society, Maine Memory Network, and Maine History Online

A growing museum, incomparable library and statewide educational resource, we are located in the heart of Portland's downtown cultural district. Founded in 1822, the Maine Historical Society is the third oldest state historical society in the United States.

The Maine Historical Society offers a variety of programs and resources designed to help teachers and students explore Maine history. These include programs at our one-acre campus in Portland, outreach programs, partnerships with schools around Maine, and resources on the web. All programs draw on MHS's extensive historical collections and the knowledge of our professional staff.

Maine Memory Network, a project of the Maine Historical Society, provides access to thousands of historical items belonging to over 200 organizations from across Maine. Search for or browse these items, explore online exhibits, or create your own collection of images from the database. www.mainememory.net

Maine Memory Network has 56 historical items related to African American people (this number is always growing), check out the photographs, objects, and more:
<http://www.mainememory.net/bin/SwishSearch?bvalues=People&bvalues=African%20Americans&supst=bv&nostem=1>

Maine History Online tells the stories of Maine and its people through essays, exhibits, historical images, documents, and objects drawn from Maine Memory Network and its more than 200 contributing organizations across the state.

Peopling Maine is one of the themes explored on Maine History Online.

"The federal census of 2000 provides this snapshot of Maine: 1,274,923 residents (well under 1 percent of the nation's 300 million), 96.7 percent of whom are white, with less than 1 percent each of African-American, Latino, Asian, and Native American descent."

Read and view the entire essay and exhibit Peopling Maine:
<http://www.mainememory.net/sitebuilder/site/879/page/1290/display>

Blacks in Maine is an exhibit/essay by Candace Kanas:
http://www.mainememory.net/sitebuilder/site/793/page/1203/display?use_mmn=

Local Connections, cont.

Bibliography from Maine History Online

Coffin, Robert P. Tristram. *Maine Doings*. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., 1950.

Elders of the Somali Community. "Mr. Laurie Raymond, Mayor, City of Lewiston," *Portland Press Herald*, October 2, 2002.

Raymond, Laurier T. Jr., "Somalis in Lewiston," *Portland Press Herald*, October 1, 2002.

Roberts, Kenneth. *Don't Say That About Maine!* Waterville, Maine: Colby College Press, 1951.

Shain, Charles and Samuella, ed. *The Maine Reader: The Down East Experience from 1614 to the Present*. Boston: David R. Godine, 1991.

Contact Information for Maine Historical Society:

Bridget McCormick
Education Coordinator
489 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
phone (207) 774-1822 ext. 212
bmccormick@mainehistory.org

Local Connections, cont.

Additional Resources

“Bravery in the Face of Bigotry” by Steve Hartman and Sean Alfano (CBS)

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/04/07/assignment_america/main1482625.shtml#ixzz1QD5IRecB

On Sept. 4, 1957, Josephine Boyd Bradley became the first black student at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, N.C. It was the same week the Arkansas National Guard blocked nine Little Rock kids from entering a high school there. The difference — Bradley did it alone. This story recounts how Julia Adams (of the Portland String Quartet) befriended Bradley at a time when no one else would.

***Creating Portland: History and Place in Northern New England* edited by Joseph Conforti (Durham, NH: University of New Hampshire Press, 2005).**

The only comprehensive study of Portland’s history, culture, and people. Includes an essay by Maureen Elgersman Lee: “What They Lack in Numbers: Locating Black Portland, 1870–1930.”

***Twenty Years: Portland Branch NAACP, 1964-1984* by Gerald E. Talbot, Carol J. Jones, and George Shepard (Portland, ME: Portland Branch NAACP, 1985).**

Booklet with essays and photographs telling the twenty year history of the NAACP in Portland. Available at the University of Southern Maine’s Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine.

***Maine’s Visible Black History: The First Chronicle of Its People* by H.H. Price, and Gerald E. Talbot (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2006).**

Black men and women have been integral parts of Maine culture and society since the beginning of the colonial era. Indeed, Mainers of African descent served in every American conflict from the King Philip’s War to the present. However, the many contributions of blacks in shaping Maine and the nation have, for a number of reasons, gone largely unacknowledged. Maine’s Visible Black History now uncovers and reveals a rich and long-neglected strata of state history and proves a very real connection to regional and national events. Drawing on the excellent writing of contributors Herb Adams, William David Barry, Beverly Dodge Bowens, Stephen Ellis, Leigh Donaldson, Bob Greene, Douglas Hall, Charles L. Lumpkins, Reginald Pitts, Marcia Robinson, Geneva McAuley Sherrer, Helene Ertha Vann, and others, the project covers many facets of history including slavery in Maine (which lasted until 1783), work, religions, family, education, military service, community, social change, arts and science, sports, politics, law, civil rights, underground railroad, and the contributions of individual men and women. There are appendices, resources for students, and an index. The book’s extraordinary illustrations document black life from Aroostook County to York County through the centuries.

National Connections

Additional Resources

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights Website

<http://www.udhr.org>

On December 10, 1998, the world marked the Declaration’s 50th anniversary. In the United States, a national coalition was formed to promote action that would advance respect for human rights both at home and abroad. This web site was originally designed to support the coalition’s work, and has been maintained as a resource for all those who want to join in the ongoing struggle for human rights.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Website.

<http://www.nps.gov/chsc/index.htm>

This site includes information about visiting the National Park, but also is rich with information including: teacher resources, essays, oral histories, and more.

NAACP. “Timeline: Trace NAACP History” NAACP Website.

<http://backup.naacp.org/about/history/timeline/index.htm>

From the ballot box to the classroom, the dedicated workers, organizers, and leaders who forged this great organization and maintain its status as a champion of social justice, fought long and hard to ensure that the voices of African Americans would be heard. For nearly one hundred years, it has been the talent and tenacity of NAACP members that has saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society.

National Civil Rights Museum Website. <http://www.civilrights museum.org/>

The National Civil Rights Museum is the site of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. The Museum is located at South Main and Huling Streets, in the historic art district of downtown Memphis. Dedicated on September 28, 1991, the Museum exists to assist the public in understanding the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement and its impact and influence on human rights movements worldwide, through its collections, exhibitions, research and educational programs. It chronicles the civil rights movement from 1619 to 2000 with historical exhibits, including Room 306, the hotel room where Dr. King stayed in April of 1968.

National Visionary Leadership Project Website. <http://www.visionaryproject.org/>

The National Visionary Leadership Project (NVLP), a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, unites generations to create tomorrow’s leaders by recording, preserving, and distributing through various media, the wisdom of extraordinary African American elders - Visionaries - who have shaped American history. Some of these elders are nationally recognized leaders, who are interviewed on videotape by NVLP’s co-founders and board members. Other Visionary elders, known primarily in their local communities, are selected and interviewed by NVLP college Fellows. This invaluable primary source material is accessible worldwide on the NVLP website, and permanently archived at the Library of Congress, allowing students, scholars and the public to gain a whole new understanding of this country’s past, and the lessons to be learned from it.

National Connections, cont.

United States Commission on Civil Rights Website. <http://www.usccr.gov/>

The mission of the USCCR is to investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote by reason of their race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or by reason of fraudulent practices; to study and collect information relating to discrimination or a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice; to appraise federal laws and policies with respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin, or in the administration of justice; to serve as a national clearinghouse for information in respect to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin; to submit reports, findings, and recommendations to the President and Congress; and to issue public service announcements to discourage discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws.

Activities

Check out this classroom activity by Teaching Tolerance, a project founded in 1991 by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Teaching Tolerance is dedicated to reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations, and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation's children.

Little Rock Revisited: A Classroom Activity, grades 6 to 12

Black students everywhere made history as pioneers paving the way for racial integration in their hometowns. These activities complement the article, *Little Rock Revisited: 40th Anniversary of Integration at Central High* (article available online: <http://www.tolerance.org/supplement/little-rock-revisited-40th-anniversary-integration-central-h>)

<http://www.tolerance.org/activity/little-rock-revisited-classroom-activity>



In-School Workshops

Students explore the historical context and the theatrical challenges in creating a solo performance, while asking participants to consider what it means to be a “warrior” in a contemporary and local sense.

\$100 for one-hour in-school workshop with Ovations Offstage educators

Students work with visiting artist to imagine and articulate an “ideal” community and develop understanding through conversation surround the experience of discrimination.

\$350 for an in-school workshop with Warriors Don’t Cry teaching artist



Study Guide Connections to Common Core Standards

This guide offers activities for students at multiple grade levels.

Common Core State Standards and ME Learning Standards	Reading Literature	Reading Info Texts	Reading Foundational Skills	Reading History/Social Studies Subjects	Reading Science Technical Subjects	Writing	Speaking and Listening	Language	Visual and Performing Arts
“Warriors Don’t Cry”	RL	RI		RH			SL	L	VPA

For more information about Common Core Standards:

Maine Department of Education Learning Standards and Goals, <http://www.maine.gov/education/standards.htm>

Maine Department of Education Common Core State Standards, <http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/commoncore/index.html>

Common Core State Standards Initiative, <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Maine Department of Education Learning Results Visual and Performing Arts, <http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/vpa/index.html>

Acknowledgements

Portland Ovations Offstage is grateful to the Bushnell Performing Arts Center, University of Southern Maine's Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine, and Maine Historical Society for use of their materials for educational purposes.

Portland Ovations' School-Time Performances are made possible in part with the support from the Travelers' Foundation, the charitable arm of Travelers, and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation.



Ovations Offstage is made possible in part with support from Jane's Trust, the New England Foundation for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, TD Bank, the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Maine Arts Commission: Great Works, Maine Humanities Council, Center for Cultural Exchange Foundation, and our Portland Ovations members.

