

Changing America

The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

The March on Washington, 1963

August 22-September 29

Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation 1863, the March on Washington 1963

Opening Reception

Saturday, August 22nd at 11:00AM

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center (123 N. 8th)

A family friendly event to showcase the traveling exhibition. Come out and listen to local musicians, keynote speaker Dr. John Edgar Tidwell, refreshments, and BBQ.

*2B Smokin' will have their famous BBQ for purchase.

Keynote speaker:

Dr. John Edgar Tidwell is a professor of English at the University of Kansas. A native of Independence, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. His research specialties are African American and American literature. He has edited seven books, including the memoirs, collected poems and selected journalism of Arkansas City native Frank Marshall Davis. Edgar directed "Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes," a series of poetry circles that met in five sites around Kansas in 2001-2002 to discuss selected works by Hughes.

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin Book Discussion

Tuesday, August 25th at 6:00PM

Independence Public Library (220 E. Maple)

The Fire Next Time (1962) is comprised of two long essays. The shorter essay, "My Dungeon Shook," is a letter to Baldwin's nephew and namesake who, on the one-hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, is fourteen years old. Baldwin's basic message to his nephew is that despite all of the racial injustice he has already experienced in his young life, he must learn to accept white people with love. This point becomes part of a larger argument that Baldwin makes in the second essay, "Down at the Cross: Letter from a Region in My Mind." Beginning with his experiences as a young born-again Christian preacher, he explains both the appeal of the church and the reasons he left it. Ultimately, Baldwin appeals to the "relatively conscious" whites and blacks who are honest and sensitive enough to discuss race relations in this country and who could end the "racial nightmare" and change the world. While it is important to keep the historical context of the early 1960s in mind when reading these essays, they are by no means dated, and speak very eloquently to the problems of American identity and racial difference today.

Discussion led by Anne Hawkins. Ms. Hawkins teaches U.S. history at Washburn University, and U.S. and world history to homeschooled youth across northeast Kansas. She received her M.A. in History from the University of Kansas. Anne has published numerous historical articles and scripts, and performs as abolitionist Mary Jane Ritchie of Topeka and author Louisa May Alcott.

Kansas Debate

Thursday, August 27th at 6:00PM

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center (123 N. 8th)

Join us in this lively debate over drug screening for Government assistance, between Kansas Senator Jeff King and the Independence Community College Debate Team. Senator Jeff King's 2013 Senate Bill 149, which passed the House and Senate by large majorities, allows officials to order a drug screening if they have a "reasonable suspicion" that an applicant or recipient of the benefits is using a "controlled substance." Commonly used recreational drugs such as marijuana would fall into that category, but not alcohol. Discover both sides of this hot-button issue in this timely debate.

Emancipation Proclamation Discussion

Tuesday, September 1st at 6:00PM

Independence Public Library (220 E. Maple)

What were the events leading up to the Emancipation? How did the Emancipation contribute to the morale and unity of this great nation? Was it within Lincoln's presidential powers to issue it? How did it affect the civil rights movement?

Presented by Dr. Isaias J. McCaffery, a Professor of History at Independence Community College and Adjunct Professor of History at Southern New Hampshire University. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Kansas with his main research interest focused on immigration and ethnic communities.

Serving as One: The History of African American Soldiers

Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00PM

Independence Public Library (220 E. Maple)

How did the Emancipation Proclamation and General Order #143 affect our military? What was the role of African-American soldiers before? How did this change the status of their service? How far have African-Americans come in our Armed Forces?

Presented by KU professor Shawn Leigh Alexander. Dr. Alexander is a historian for African and African-American Studies at the University of Kansas and teaches classes on 19th and 20th century African-American social and intellectual history. He received his Ph.D. in Afro-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts and his M.A. in African-American World Studies from the University of Iowa. Shawn has researched early efforts by the African-American community to organize politically, including incidents in Kansas that played into the Civil Rights struggle.

Brother Outsider Screening

Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00PM

Independence Public Library (220 E. Maple)

"During his 60-year career as an activist, organizer and "troublemaker," Bayard Rustin formulated many of the strategies that propelled the American civil rights 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. In 1963, Rustin brought his unique skills to the crowning glory of his civil rights career: his work organizing the March on Washington, the biggest protest America had ever seen. But his open homosexuality forced him to remain in the background, marking him again and again as a "brother outsider." Brother Outsider: the Life of Bayard Rustin 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." -PBS

Penn Terrace Afternoon Movie

Wednesday, September 16th at 2:00PM

Penn Terrace (401 S. Penn)

Nancy Kishpaugh will show the documentary "Brother Outsider" at Penn Terrace apartments. "Brother Outsider" tells the story of Bayard Rustin, a 60-year career as an activist, organizer and "troublemaker," who formulated many of the strategies that propelled the American civil rights movement.

From Slavery to Civil Rights Storytime and Craft!

Wednesday, September 16th at 4:30PM

Independence Public Library (220 E. Maple)

Children are invited to come listen to and see the vivid pictures in "The Beatitudes; From Slavery to Civil Rights" children's book. Following this exciting storytime, children will recreate and "I Have a Dream" mobile.

City SPIRIT

Saturday, September 19th @ TBA

TBA

The City Problem Identification and Resolution of Issues Together program is provided by the United States Department of Justice. City SPIRIT is a problem-solving and resolution program that brings together representatives from local government agencies, communities, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, and businesses to develop collaborative approaches to reducing conflicts and addressing the factors that contribute to the conflicts. These groups may also develop approaches to preventing and responding to alleged violent hate crimes committed on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual

orientation, religion or disability. This program helps communities develop enduring strategies to prevent and respond to incidents.

This program is part of the Independence Diversity Taskforce.

Race Matters by Cornel West Book Discussion

Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00PM (220 E. Maple)

This 1994 bestseller by Cornel West, Professor of Afro-American Studies and the Philosophy of Religion at Harvard University, is a collection of essays about the meaning of race and race relations in the contemporary United States. West reminds us that W.E.B. DuBois wrote in 1903 that “the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line,” and that this is as profoundly true in our day as it was in his. West writes about events such as the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas’s 1991 confirmation hearings, and the 1991 murder of Yankel Rosenbaum in Crown Heights, New York. He also analyzes – and helps us understand – current twists on topics ranging from attitudes toward affirmative action, to the new black conservative, to divisive black-Jewish relations, to the nihilism in black America. With passion and eloquence, West argues for revitalized “public conversation about race” that will allow us to confront our problems and move away from the despair and cynicism that marks so many of our social actions and political decisions.

Discussion led by Marilyn Klaus, a lecturer in Religious Studies and African and African American Studies at KU. She received her M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Kansas and M.Div. from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries. Her areas of expertise include women's studies, comparative religions, Islam and Muslim women's autobiographies. This program is in partnership with the Kansas Humanities Council.

***Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation 1863; The March on Washington 1963* Closing Reception**

Tuesday, September 29th at 6:00PM

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center (123 N. 8th)

Featuring keynote speaker Gretchen Cassel Eick's discussion on "*1964: The Civil Rights Act, the War on Poverty, and Freedom Summer.*" In 2014, the United States will commemorate 50 years since the landmark Civil Rights Act, the launch of President Johnson’s War on Poverty, and Freedom Summer when young Americans worked to register voters in the South. These historic actions were met with controversy, violence, and political resistance, but the results resonated around the globe. Federal laws protecting Americans against discrimination, programs that helped lift families out of poverty, and grassroots actions that educated and empowered voters strengthened the nation. This presentation will highlight the challenges and victories of 1964, a deciding year in our nation’s history.

Presented by Gretchen Cassel Eick, a professor emeritus of history at Friends University in Wichita. In 2009, she was awarded the Friends' Excellence in Teaching Award. Her scholarly work has been on the civil rights movement 1950s-1970s and Native American history. Her first

book, *Dissent in Wichita: The Civil Rights Movement in the Midwest, 1954-1972* won three awards and stimulated others in Wichita to examine this history, resulting in curriculum materials she developed, a public television documentary, two museum exhibits, and two commemorations of participants in the 1958 Dockum Drug Store sit-in, the first successful student-led sit-in. CBS and CSPAN both featured this part of Kansas history in 2011-12. This program is in partnership with the Kansas Humanities Council.

“Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963” is presented by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of American History in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The exhibition is made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and is part of NEH’s Bridging Cultures initiative, “Created Equal: America’s Civil Rights Struggle,” which brings four outstanding films on the civil rights movement to communities across the United States. “Created Equal” encourages communities across the country to revisit and reflect on the long history of civil rights in America.