Hello Everyone,

This is the e-newsletter for the Langston Hughes Center (LHC). The Langston Hughes Center (formerly the Langston Hughes Resource Center, founded in 1998) is an academic research and educational center that is building upon the legacy and creative and intellectual insight of African American author, poet, playwright, folklorist and social critic, Langston Hughes. The Center coordinates, strengthens and develops teaching, research and outreach activities in African American Studies, and the study of race and culture in American society at the University of Kansas and throughout the region. Each month the LHC sends out an e-newsletter to inform you about upcoming events at KU and throughout the region, as well as provide you with any recent news of general interest to those concerned with the work of the Center.

See below for the latest LHC e-newsletter. More information about our events and programs can be found on our website at [http://www2.ku.edu/~lhcaas](http://www2.ku.edu/~lhcaas). Please feel free to pass this information along to friends and colleagues.

**In this newsletter:**

1. **Upcoming Events:** Jesse B. Semple Brownbag; David Roediger; Reflecting Forward: 60 Years of American Studies

2. **In the News:** LHC Blog; African American Literary Blog; We Are Not Safe; Separate and Equal; A Dream Foreclosed; Bayard Rustin Remembered; 50 Years Later, the Untold Story; Gloria Richardson on the 1963 March; Taylor Branch on the March; The Socialists Who Made the March; Moses of Mississippi; On the Anniversary of the March, a New Fight for Voting Rights

3. **General Information:** Call For Papers NCBS; Women, Gender, and Families of Color

Sincerely,

Shawn Leigh Alexander  
Associate Professor of African and African-American Studies  
Director, Langston Hughes Center  
University of Kansas

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**Upcoming Events**

[More events information is available here]
Jesse B. Semple Brownbag Series

What: "It is true in more senses than one, that slavery rests upon hell!" Slavery as Religion – Edward J. Blum, San Diego State University

When: Monday, September 9 @11:30 am - 1:00 pm (11:30 –12:00 social period and brownbag lunch)

Where: Langston Hughes Center, Room 1, Bailey Hall (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Langston Hughes Center

About The Jesse B. Semple Brownbag Series: The Jesse B. Semple Brownbag, every second Monday of each academic month, is an informal forum for the African Americanist community and those who are interested in the general study of race, culture, and American society. The forum discusses activities on campus, historical and current issues related to race, and culture and social relations in America. It offers opportunities for visiting scholars, KU faculty, and KU students to present their ongoing research. Langston Hughes’ character Jesse B. Semple, or Simple first appeared in the Chicago Defender on February 13, 1943. Simple became a voice, often in comic or satirical fashion, through which Hughes could comment on international relations, current events and the everyday concerns of the African American community.

Reflecting Forward: 60 Years of American Studies

What: “Outlawing Shakespeare: The Battle for the Tucson Mind” – commentators: Jacob Dorman, Ruben Flores, Ben Chapell, University of Kansas

When: September 23 @ 11:30 am

Where: Kansas Union, Centennial Room (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Departments of American Studies, and Spanish & Portuguese.

For More Information see: https://americanstudies.drupal.ku.edu/monday-0
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anChx_9TF-Q

Reflecting Forward: 60 Years of American Studies

What: “Emancipation from Below: The Jubilee Slaves Made and Freedom for All” – David Roediger, University of Illinois

When: September 24 @ 7:00 pm

Where: Kansas Union, Alderson Auditorium (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Department of American Studies, Office of the Chancellor, the Office of the Provost, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Departments of Sociology, Geography, Spanish & Portuguese, English, Women Gender & Sexuality Studies, Theatre, Dance, Film & Media Studies, Humanities & Western Civilization, History, African & African American Studies, and Equal Opportunity & Academic Resource Center.
Reflecting Forward: 60 Years of American Studies

What: "Round Midnight" – and a conversation with Maxine Gordon (Dexter Gordon's widow) featuring Nicole Hodges Persley and Chuck Berg, University of Kansas

When: September 27 @ 7:00 pm

Where: Kansas Union, Centennial Room (University of Kansas, Lawrence Campus)

Cost per person: FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsors of this Event: Departments of American Studies, and Theatre

For More Information see: https://americanstudies.drupal.ku.edu/friday-september-27

In The News

Langston Hughes Center Blog

See news entries related to African American Studies at the following link: http://afs.ku.edu/~lhcaas/The%20LHC%20Blog/The%20LHC%20Blog.html

African American Literary Blog

See entries from various authors at the following link: http://projectbw.blogspot.com/

We Are Not Safe: Gun Laws and Race in America

Robert Chase and Yohuru Williams | July 21, 2013 | counterpunch.org

“The simple fact is we are not safe. Not in our homes, not anywhere...People now cannot walk on their streets without fear of crime!” Interestingly, these are not the words of those around the nation currently seeking justice by protesting the verdict in the trial of George Zimmerman found “not guilty” of slaying Florida teen Trayvon Martin. Rather these were the words of admonition and fear used by Jeb Bush to kick-off his 1998 campaign for Governor of Florida. Once in office, Bush burnished his law and order credentials by pushing through two laws that now stand at the heart of the Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman controversy.

The first, “Stand Your Ground” (SYG), extends the Castle Doctrine of no “duty to retreat” beyond the home and into public space. The second, that has received less media attention, is the 10-20-life mandatory minimum gun laws that mock any notion of equal justice in their disproportionate application against people of color. Although scores of pundits have taken to the airways in recent days to profess to us all that the law is color blind, the implementation of both these two cornerstone Bush-era statues demonstrate disturbing racial disparities and deeply historically rooted mythologies concerning public fears over guns and race.

With the catchy legislative slogan of “Use a Gun and You’re Done,” the 10-20-life law
implemented in 1999 set mandatory minimum sentences in Florida for any convicted felon who carried, displayed, or used a gun during a crime. Rather than act as a separate charge, these mandatory minimums were meant to serve as “sentence enhancements,” denying even a judge’s ability to lessen the sentence. Under the law, penalties escalate depending on the use of the firearm. In cases of simple possession, those convicted receive a mandatory minimum sentence of 3 years; those that use a gun receive 10 years; those that fire a gun receive 20 years; and if a victim was injured or killed by a gun during a crime, the state imposed a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years to life in prison. By receiving a “not guilty” verdict in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman also escaped the mandatory minimum requirement.

Read the full article at the following link: http://www.counterpunch.org/2013/07/19/gun-laws-and-race-in-america/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=gun-laws-and-race-in-america

Separate And Unequal: Racial Divides In Higher Ed
| July 31, 2013 | NPR: Tell Me More

A new report suggests that more white students are heading to top tier colleges, while their black and Hispanic counterparts are turning to low tuition, open-access institutions. Host Michel Martin speaks with Georgetown’s Anthony Carnevale, about what the numbers mean.

Listen to the program and read the transcript at the following link: http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=207292637

A Dream Foreclosed
| August 6, 2013 | Democracy Now

As President Obama heads to Phoenix today to tout the “housing recovery,” journalist Laura Gottesdiener examines the devastating legacy of the foreclosure crisis and how much of the so-called recovery is a result of large private equity firms buying up hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes. More than 10 million people across the country have been evicted from their homes in the last six years. Her new book, "A Dream Foreclosed: Black America and the Fight for a Place to Call Home," focuses on four families who have pushed back against foreclosures. "The banks exploited a larger historical trajectory of discrimination in lending and in housing that has existed since the beginning of this country. The banks intentionally went into communities that had been redlined, which meant that the federal housing administration had made it a policy to not lend and not to guarantee any loans in minority neighborhoods all throughout most of the 20th century that didn't supposedly end until well into the 1960s," Gottesdiener says. "And they exploited that historical reality and pushed the worst of the worst loans in these communities that everyone knew were unpayable debts -- that Wall Street knew."

Watch the segment at the following link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ4BlspAWQI&feature=player_embedded

Bayard Rustin Remembered
| August 12, 2013 | Democracy Now

The White House has announced it will posthumously award the highest civilian award in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, to the trailblazing civil rights activist Bayard Rustin. Obama will honor Rustin and 15 others including President Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey,
Rustin. Obama will honor Rustin and 13 others including President Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey and baseball great Ernie Banks at the White House later this year. Rustin was a key advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. and introduced him to Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings on nonviolence. Rustin helped King start the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957. Six years later, he was the chief organizer of the historic 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, rallying hundreds of thousands of people for economic justice, full employment, voting rights and equal opportunity. "Rustin was one of the most important social justice activists in the U.S. in the 20th century," says John D’Emilio, author of "Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin," "Rustin pioneered the use of Gandhian nonviolence as a way of calling attention to segregation and other forms of racism in the United States." We also speak to former NAACP chair Julian Bond and Rustin’s partner, Walter Naegle.

Watch the segment at the following link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW5z98A_eAo&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW5z98A_eAo&feature=player_embedded)
Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njXdjZzDmYg&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njXdjZzDmYg&feature=youtu.be)

**50 Years Later, the Untold History of the March on Washington**
| August 21, 2013 | Democracy Now |

One week out from the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom -- and just days away from a major march this Saturday commemorating the event -- we spend the hour looking at much of its forgotten history. More than a quarter-million people came to the nation’s capital on August 28th, 1963 to protest discrimination, joblessness and economic inequality faced by African Americans. Many now consider the march to be a key turning point in the civil rights movement. We explore the largely untold history behind the march and how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, like his own political legacy, remains widely misunderstood. "I think today, the way the speech and the march are understood is wrapped in the flag, and seen as one more example of American genius, when in fact it was a mass, multiracial, dissident act," says Gary Younge, author of "The Speech: The Story Behind Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Dream." "The powers that be really did not want this [march] to happen. The march was policed like a military operation." We also speak to historian William P. Jones, author of “The March on Washington: Jobs, Freedom, and the Forgotten History of Civil Rights." "It really had a very profound effect on shifting the national conversation, even within the civil rights movement itself, toward a major focus on the connections between racial equality and economic justice," Jones says.

Watch the segment at the following link: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khHIEw3wxt0&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khHIEw3wxt0&feature=player_embedded)
Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkFEGbJsGHE&feature=player_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkFEGbJsGHE&feature=player_embedded)

**Civil Rights Pioneer Gloria Richardson, 91 on How Women were Silenced at 1963 March**
| August 27, 2013 | Democracy Now |

Fifty years ago this week, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lewis, A Philip Randolph, Bayard Rustin and other civil rights leaders spoke at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. But where were the female civil rights activists? At the historic march, only one woman spoke for just more than a minute: Daisy Bates of the NAACP. Today we are joined by civil rights pioneer Gloria Richardson, the co-founder of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee in Maryland, which fought to desegregate public institutions like schools and hospitals. While Richardson was on the program for the March on Washington, when she stood to speak she only had a chance...
Richardson is the subject of a pending biography by Joseph R. Fitzgerald, "The Struggle is Eternal: Gloria Richardson and Black Liberation." Richardson, 91, joins us to discuss the 1963 March on Washington and the censorship of women speakers; the Cambridge Movement to desegregate Maryland; her friendship with Malcolm X; and her assessment of President Obama and the civil rights struggle today.

Watch the segment at the following link: [http://www.democracynow.org/2013/8/27/civil_rights_pioneer_gloria_richardson_91](http://www.democracynow.org/2013/8/27/civil_rights_pioneer_gloria_richardson_91)

**Taylor Branch on the March on Washington**

| August 29, 2013 | Democracy Now |

As we continue our coverage of the 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech, we're joined by the acclaimed chronicler of the civil rights movement, Taylor Branch. A Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Branch is best known for his landmark narrative history of the civil rights era, the "America in the King Years" trilogy. His new book is a collection from the trilogy that he has adapted for a college course, "The King Years: Historic Moments in the Civil Rights Movement."

Watch the segment at the following link: [http://www.democracynow.org/2013/8/29/historian_taylor_branch_on_the_march](http://www.democracynow.org/2013/8/29/historian_taylor_branch_on_the_march)

**The Socialists Who Made the March on Washington**

Harold Meyerson | August 23, 2013 | American Prospect

**The Team Assembles**

In 1956, when I was a student at Brooklyn College, Mike Harrington told Tom [Kahn, another Brooklyn College student] and me to go up to this office in Manhattan, on 57th Street, to work with Bayard Rustin,” Rachelle Horowitz remembers. Harrington (who was to author *The Other America*, which sparked the War on Poverty), Horowitz, and Kahn were all members of the Young People's Socialist League, a democratic socialist organization of no more than several hundred members nationally. Rustin, their elder, boasted a longer left pedigree: a brief sojourn in the Communist Party in the '30s, then—repudiating the Communists and affiliating himself with the Socialist Party—working for socialist A.J. Muste's Fellowship of Reconciliation; founding the Congress of Racial Equality with fellow socialist James Farmer in 1942; doing time in Leavenworth during World War II for protesting the segregation of the armed forces; traveling to India to study nonviolent civil disobedience with the Gandhi-ites; and endeavoring to integrate interstate bus travel in the South a decade before the Freedom Rides began (for which, during one trip, he was badly beaten). When Harrington suggested that Horowitz and Kahn go help out Rustin, whom they'd not met before, he was organizing a national support network for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which had begun just a few weeks earlier.
This was the genesis of the network of democratic socialists who seven years later were to conceive, organize, and set the themes for the March on Washington.

Handsome, stylish, and dynamic (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee founder Stokely Carmichael said Rustin seemed to be wearing a cape even when he wasn’t), Rustin “blew our mind” when she and Kahn met him, Horowitz recalls. Theirs was hardly a unique response. Carmichael’s reaction upon first encountering Rustin, he wrote decades later, was to think: “This man was a radical activist, an intellectual, and a strategist. That’s what I want to be when I grow up.”

“We wanted to change America and here were these people who were doing it,” says Horowitz, who in later years became the political director of the American Federation of Teachers. The group Rustin had assembled to assist the boycott and its leader—the Montgomery minister Martin Luther King Jr., still in his mid-twenties—was called In Friendship. Also in the office when Kahn and Horowitz reported for duty were Ella Baker, a veteran civil-rights activist who’d belonged to a splinter anti-Stalinist communist group (the Lovestoneites) in the ’30s, and Stanley Levison, a successful businessman who’d left the Communist Party some years earlier. A young Bob Moses, who later at great personal danger was to head up voter registration drives in Jim Crow Mississippi, also showed up to volunteer. The immediate task at hand was putting together a rally at Madison Square Garden that would raise funds and demonstrate national support for the bus boycott. Rustin had already gone South to help King conceptualize and put in motion the first of the fledgling civil-rights movement’s mass nonviolent civil-disobedience campaigns as part of the boycott. A year later, Baker was to become the key organizer for the group of black clergy that King would assemble and lead, the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC). Levison was to become, with Rustin, one of King’s chief counselors.

Read the full article at the following link: http://prospect.org/article/socialists-who-made-march-washington

Moses of Mississippi

Bryce Stucki | August 30, 2013 | American Prospect

Bob Moses did not speak at the March on Washington. The Harvard student turned-rural organizer spent the day before picketing outside the Justice Department, with a sign quoting St. Augustine that read: “When There Is No Justice, What Is the State but a Robber Band Enlarged?” Moses wanted the federal government to protect the civil rights of poor black Americans, who were beaten and killed, whose churches were burned, whose fundamental personhood was under assault for trying to vote in Mississippi.

White Mississippians wanted to kill Bob Moses: they shot at him, imprisoned him, beat him savagely on city streets. After one of those beatings—one day in Amite County—Moses rose to his feet, gathered himself, and walked into the county courthouse. Inside, blood dripping from
his head, he alerted a baffled clerk that the two men with him wanted to register to vote. “I just
couldn’t understand what Bob Moses was,” a Mississippi native said later. “Sometimes I think
he was Moses in the Bible ... He had more guts than any one man I’ve ever known.”

Moses led from the bottom; he didn’t want a big stage. He made the country pay attention to
the vicious racism of the deep South. He helped create the “One Man, One Vote” campaign.
Over objections, he helped organize Freedom Summer, which sowed the seeds for black
participation in Mississippi democracy. “This is Mississippi, the middle of the iceberg,” Moses
wrote in a 1961 letter from jail. In the cell, a fellow civil-rights worker was singing. “This is a
tremor from the middle of the iceberg—from a stone the builders rejected.”

Today, Moses is president of the Algebra Project, a civil-rights group aimed at helping
underprivileged kids in inner-city and rural schools. As the Student Nonviolent Coordinating
Committee (SNCC) workers helped sharecroppers vote a half-century ago, Algebra Project
workers help poor children get a quality education. Algebra Project teachers present concepts,
like the number line, in contexts familiar to students, like traveling on the T train in Boston. The
idea is that when students find a pedagogy that works for them, they will demand that teachers
adopt that pedagogy. When they find an education system that doesn’t work for them, they will
demand something different. That means Algebra Project students will tutor their peers but that
they will also demonstrate over education cuts. The right to a quality education is necessary
for full citizenship just as voting was, says Moses, and the federal government needs to protect
it, just as it does voting.

Read the full article at the following link: http://prospect.org/article/moses-mississippi

**On The Anniversary of the March on Washington, A New Fight for Voting Rights**

Ari Berman | August 28, 2013 | Nation

During this week’s events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington,
the fight for voting rights emerged as a central cause for the civil rights movement. In 1963,
few blacks could vote in the states of the Old Confederacy. In 2013, there’s a black president,
but the right to vote is under the most sustained attack—in the states and the courts—since the

At the official commemoration today, Presidents Obama, Clinton and Carter voiced their dismay
over the Supreme Court’s decision gutting the VRA and the rush to implement new voter
suppression laws in seven Southern states since the ruling.
“A great democracy does not make it harder to vote than to buy an assault weapon,” said
Clinton, referencing a Texas voter ID law that accepts a concealed carry permit, but not a
student ID, to cast a ballot.
“I believe we all know how Dr. King would have reacted to the new ID requirements to exclude certain voters, especially African-Americans,” said Carter. “I think we all know how Dr. King would have reacted to the Supreme Court striking down a crucial part of the Voting Rights Act just recently passed overwhelmingly by Congress.”

We must challenge “those who erect new barriers to the vote,” said Obama. Voting rights issues were even more front and center at Saturday’s “Realize the Dream” rally and march.

“This morning, we affirm that this struggle must, and will, go on in the cause of our nation’s quest for justice—until every eligible American has the chance to exercise his or her right to vote, unencumbered by discriminatory or unneeded procedures, rules, or practices,” said Attorney General Eric Holder, who just filed a suit challenging Texas’s voter ID law under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

“I gave a little blood on that bridge in Selma, Alabama, for the right to vote,” said Congressman John Lewis, who was nearly killed during the “Bloody Sunday” march in 1965. “I am not going to stand by and let the Supreme Court take the right to vote away from us.”

Lewis spoke for everyone at the rally when he said, “We must say to the Congress: fix the Voting Rights Act."

Read the whole article at the following link: http://www.thenation.com/blog/175968/anniversary-march-washington-new-fight-voting-rights#

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**General Information**

**Call for Papers – NCBS**  
**Annual Conference**  
**March 5-8, 2013**  
**Miami, FL**

NCBS is accepting abstracts for individual paper, poster, panel, session, roundtable discussion, workshop, town hall meeting that explore the Black experience locally, nationally, and/or globally from a variety of perspectives. Of particular interest are presentations that comparatively explore these experiences, as well as those that examine the discipline of Africana/Black Studies using multi-layered frameworks and methodologies. Papers that incorporate various combinations of race/nationality, class, gender, and sexuality, through the lens of but not limited to Afrocentric, cross and multicultural, diasporic, feminist, post-colonial, post-modernist or transnational interpretative schemes are welcomed. Send a 150-400 word abstract for a panel (one for the panel subject and one for each panelist), and/or individual paper and poster presentations. For roundtable discussions submit a 500 word abstract that explores the discussion topic.
Conference proposal deadline January 11, 2014.

http://www.ncbsonline.org/conference_call_for_papers

Call for Papers – Women, Gender, and Families of Color
US Immigration: Women's Rights and Realities
Manuscripts Due: 12/15/13

Women and families across racial and ethnic groups have historically moved to the US in search of better living conditions, safety, and opportunities. These women disproportionately suffer from poverty, assault, unfair labor practices, poor health, a lack of health services, and ambiguous protections and educational access for themselves and their children.

This special issue is devoted to scholarship that explores the historical and contemporary social, economic, cultural, and political aspects of living as documented/undocumented women of color emigrants. Possible topics include but not limited to:

* separation from children, partners, and kin
* emotional challenges
* abuse and violence
* reproductive rights and health care
* labor issues
* managing families and households
* living conditions
* documented and undocumented women
* legal rights and protections
* education

Contact: Editor, Jennifer Hamer, JHamer@KU.edu Guest-Editor, Jacqueline McLeod, Metropolitan State University of Denver

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