

Please join us for the remaining events in the “Voices of Freedom Summer” Conference and Reunion on Sunday, September 19, 2004:

**9:00 a.m. Interfaith Gathering at the Freedom Summer Memorial
(in case of rain, Kumler Chapel)**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Vincent Harding, Co-chairperson of the Veterans of Hope Project: A Center for the Study of Religion and Democratic Renewal

10:30 a.m. “Faces of Freedom Summer: Photographs by Herbert Randall Exhibit gallery talk and tour by Herbert Randall at the Miami University Art Museum

801 South Patterson Avenue, <http://www.fna.muohio.edu/amu/>

What made 1964 special? Here are some highlights of the year:

January 23	24 th Amendment to the Constitution passed, making poll taxes for federal elections illegal
April 26	founding of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)
June 21	Civil rights workers Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner murdered
June, July, and August	Mississippi Freedom Summer Project for voter registration and freedom schools succeeded in registering 63,000 black voters for the MFDP
July 2	President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Bill
August	Democratic Convention in Atlantic City with nationally televised coverage of MFDP speeches exposing the oppressive conditions for blacks in Mississippi and challenging the authenticity of the all white Mississippi delegation
December	Martin Luther King, Jr. awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

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“Wouldn’t Take Nothin’ for My Journey”: A Celebration in Music and Drama

Conceived by Dr. Paul K. Jackson and Dr. Tammy L. Kernodle

Performances by

Lindsey Barlag
Vonzell Carter
Calesta Day
Eddie Downs
Kerri Duncan
Chris Hodge
Chris Ledermeier
Cecilia Miller
Emily Pucell
Grecia Vaughn

Miami University Gospel Singers
“When Jesus Speaks”
arranged by Premone Collins
“Magnify”
by Byron Cage

Featured Performances by:

Betty Fikes
Matt Jones
John O’Neal

Stage manager: Kevin McFillen

Visual Text : Andrew Beal

Technical Assistance: Emily Williams

Text for this performance has been drawn from the following sources:

Ellen Barnes’ Diary of Orientation for the Mississippi Summer
Project (June 14-20, 1964) at Western College for Women Archives,

Letters from Mississippi: Personal Reports from Civil Rights Volunteers of the 1964

Freedom Summer ed. Elizabeth Sutherland Martinez (Zephyr Press),

Robert Moses “Mississippi 1961-1962”

Photographs from: George Hoxie, Herbert Randall, Mark McPhail

There will be a short Intermission between parts I and II of the program.

Betty Fikes can be heard in historic recordings such as those found in *Voices of the Civil Rights Movement: Black American Freedom Songs 1960-1966* (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 1997) and in *Sing for Freedom: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement through its Songs* (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, 1990). Fikes is descended from a long line of gospel singers and preachers. Born in Selma, Alabama, she began singing at age 4 alongside of her mother, one of her great inspirations. When Fikes was 10, she moved to LA where she continued her involvement with music. At age 13, she moved back to Selma and became involved in the Civil Rights movement. She was jailed in 1963 during the voting rights struggle in Selma and in 1964 she began singing with the Freedom Singers. Fikes still sings with the Freedom Singers and tours the country speaking about the Civil Rights Movement. She also leads children’s workshops in which she uses the songs of the 1960’s to speak to the new millennium. She shares the theme: “we’ll never turn back” more so than “we shall overcome.”

Matthew Jones was already a schooled, experienced musician when he became active in the fight for civil rights by joining the Nashville Student Movement in 1960. He also became an outspoken participant in the struggle in Danville, Va., for which he organized a vocal group, the Danville Freedom Voices, in 1963. Shortly thereafter, Jones relocated to Atlanta, Ga., with his brother Marshall and the two became affiliated with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and their powerful music ensemble, the Freedom Singers. This legendary group was actually born via a series of meetings held between Cordell Reagon, SNCC Executive Secretary Jim Foreman and Pete Seeger. In 1964, Jones, a SNCC field secretary, became a member and then its director. That year, the Freedom Singers toured the country as part of the wide organizing drive to build the Friends of SNCC, initially focusing on northern states to build the movement’s momentum. Jones maintained his role as an artist-activist even as SNCC broke apart, performing his radical repertoire around the world.

John O’Neal, Junebug Productions Artistic Director. Since 1963, John O’Neal has been a leading advocate of the view that “politics” and “art” are complementary not opposing terms. His work as a writer, performer and director has taken him to audiences throughout North America and to Europe. He is the founder and artistic director of Junebug Productions, which is the organizational successor to the Free Southern Theater of which O’Neal was also a co-founder and director. O’Neal was a Field Secretary for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and worked as an organizer with the United Church of Christ Committee for Racial Justice. O’Neal has authored twelve plays, several essays and poetry. He has numerous credits as an actor and has toured widely in the mythic character of Junebug Jabbo Jones, a character that was created by people involved in SNCC to symbolize the wisdom of common people. John has been a leader in the field of artists working in community. Since 1999, John’s main work has revolved around The Color Line Project, a community-based story collection project about the Civil Rights Movement. John and his Color Line Partner, Theresa Holden, have recently won the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award for their joint work on the national Color Line Projects.