

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Volume 3 Issue 2

## UMW Members Attend Conference Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Freedom Summer

Fourteen members of the UMW community traveled to the Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, TN for the annual Homecoming conference on September 19 – 21, 2014. This year's theme was "The Spirit of Freedom Summer: Today's Radical Movements for Community, Democracy, and Education." For over 75 years, Highlander has been a location where civil rights leaders and activists - like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks - have gathered to strategize for social change.

The conference featured civil rights activists who were instrumental in registering African Americans to vote during the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer, which was organized by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Robert "Bob" Moses, the Field Secretary for SNCC and the Founder and President of the Algebra Project, was the keynote speaker.

Eleven students, with three faculty and staff members, attended the Highlander conference. In addition to speakers, the conference included strategic conversation on liberatory education; a documentary screening of "Maestra" and discussion with filmmaker, Catherine Murphy; an author-activist discussion of *Delta Fragments* featuring Dr. John Oliver Hodges; and an interactive session with Artist-in-Residence and organizer, Ndume Olatushani. Throughout the conference, participants sang freedom songs, reminiscent of times when people sang these songs to keep spirits uplifted and communities bonded toward their goal.



At the conclusion of the conference, participants indicated that the experience was deeply moving and motivational. Molly Everett, a senior majoring in Anthropology, stated, "What I loved ... was the atmosphere of solidarity and positivity that was being fostered through group singing and impassioned group discussion. I was inspired by the words of the speakers and their personal stories. I left Highlander feeling motivated to become more actively involved in the social activism of my community." When reflecting on the impact of this conference, LaKisha Mahone, a senior Sociology major expressed, "It was an education in humanity... witnessing the number of individuals from various demographics and class statuses conscious of the countless social injustices in the world...with the fact they were willing to address these issues."

## Spring 2015 Cultural Awareness Series Speakers

The Cultural Awareness Series has a lot to offer this spring, including four esteemed scholars and activists as keynote speakers.

This year's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. keynote speaker is Ernest Green, one of the Little Rock Nine who was the first African-American graduate of Little Rock Central High School. He and the other members of the Little Rock Nine were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999 in recognition of their bravery during integration at the high school.



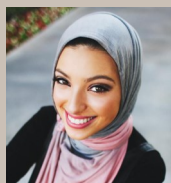
Judge Glenda Hatchett

The Black History Month keynote speaker will be Judge Glenda Hatchett, who was the first African-American chief presiding judge of a Georgia state court. She has received awards for her outstanding work in criminal justice. Additionally, she is the author of two national best sellers and has served on non-profit boards.



Ernest Green

Dr. Anita Taylor is this year's Women's History Month keynote speaker. An important scholar in the field of communication, Taylor is well-versed on topics such as gender, language, and women as communicators. She is a distinguished author and she teaches and coaches debate at George Mason University. Taylor has been honored with several awards in recent years.



Noor Tagouri

The Islamic Cultural Celebration keynote speaker will be Noor Tagouri, who is one of the most talked about young adults in America. The first generation Libyan-American is an important cultural figure who aims to expose the cultural injustices and challenges experienced by women around the globe.



Anita Taylor

# Kristallnacht Commemoration featuring a Holocaust Survivor



Marcel Drimer. Photograph courtesy of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Drimer Family

On November 10, 1938, tens of thousands of Jews woke to find the windows of their stores, businesses, homes and synagogues had been shattered and destroyed overnight in what has come to be called Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass.

Immediately after, over 30 thousand Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps, marking the beginning of what is now known as the Holocaust.

Join us in commemorating this historic and tragic event, as Dr. Porter R. Blakemore, associate professor in the

Department of History and American Studies provides information about the Holocaust and a Holocaust survivor, Marcel Drimer, tells his story.

Drimer, born in Poland, was only four years old when Kristallnacht happened. The lives of Mr. Drimer and his family changed drastically after the Nazi invasion of Poland, being forced into the Drohobycz ghetto and eventually going into hiding until the end of the war.

This event will be held on Monday, November 10, at 6 p.m. in Lee Hall, room 411 and will be free and

open to the public as part of the annual Jewish Cultural Celebration. For more information, please contact the James Farmer Multicultural Center at 540/654-1044, via email at [umwjfmc@gmail.com](mailto:umwjfmc@gmail.com), or visit our website, [students.umw.edu/multicultural](http://students.umw.edu/multicultural).

The James Farmer Multicultural Center would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and to Marcel and Ania Drimer for making this event possible.



Studio portrait of Marcel Drimer and his mother Laura. Photograph courtesy of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Marcel and Ania Drimer.

## Upcoming Spring 2015 Events

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Speaker: Ernest Green, January 21, 7 p.m.
- Gospelfest, February 7, 3 p.m. Dodd Auditorium
- Black History Month Keynote Speaker: Judge Glenda Hatchett, February 11, 7 p.m.
- Step Show Competition, February 21, 7 p.m.
- Women's History Month Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anita Taylor, March 18, 7 p.m.
- Passover, April 7, 6 p.m.



## Kwanzaa

Thursday, December 4, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Faculty/Staff Dining Room, Seacobeck Hall



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