

WALKING TOUR: African-American history walking tour, today, 1 p.m., Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Westmoreland County. Guided walking tour focusing on the contributions of blacks at Stratford Hall. Cost included in admission. 804/493-8038; stratfordhall.org.

BLACK HISTORY

TOWN & COUNTY FREDERICKSBURG, VA. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010 THE FREE LANCE-STAR

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NAACP BOOK A GEM

THROUGHOUT the history of the United States, the issue of race has been, at times, our undoing. At other times it has been a unifying factor in helping bring about the process of change in our society.

To this day, race evokes emotions in all of us. It often goes un-addressed due to the stances taken from different sides of the conversation. The lack of comfort can be attributed to the lack of education we have about our cultures. Race, creed and color are three things that continue to define all of us, much to our chagrin.

The first form of legislation granted to U.S. blacks that ensured their freedom was the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Before this piece of presidential absolution, blacks were thought of as chattel, property, three-fifths of a person.

Even after its enactment, blacks continued to be treated as second-class citizens, without voices of representation in the U.S. government.

Since the arrival of the first Africans onto the shores of Jamestown in 1619, blacks have found it to be an endless struggle to be fully embraced by the society at large.

The centuries of insurmountable odds encountered by blacks led to the ultimate formation of a coalition of individuals who sought to give a voice to a disenfranchised people.

This group met in 1905 to discuss the challenges facing blacks and develop a method of implementation to solve these challenges. The meeting later would be dubbed the Niagara Movement, and it convened under the leadership of Harvard scholar W.E.B. Du Bois on the Cana-



BOOK REVIEW »

CHRIS WILLIAMS

dian side of Niagara Falls in Fort Erie, Ontario, because hotels in America were segregated.

Among the issues they focused on was the degradation of blacks in the South. From 1890 to 1908, Southern legislatures ratified new constitutions creating barriers to voter registration and more complex election rules.

The NAACP was instrumental in galvanizing individuals from different backgrounds to unite for a common cause.

On Feb. 12, 1909, four whites joined the group: journalists William E. Walling and Oswald Garrison Villard; social worker Mary White Ovington; and social worker Dr. Henry Moskowitz, who was then associate leader of the New York Society for Ethical Culture. (The date was intended to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, who emancipated enslaved blacks.)

These individuals are featured in the beginning of the well-crafted "NAACP: Celebrating a Century: 100 Years

in Pictures." The book details their involvement in formulating the blueprint for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

This illustration of history is separated by decades beginning with 1910. The first chapter describes the problems of the mass lynchings going on across the United States. The pictures of the lynchings are both riveting and troubling.

More pictures from the decade exemplify the first meetings of the young organization, influential figures and various covers of the "Crisis," the official publication of the NAACP first composed by Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois to be distributed to the masses.

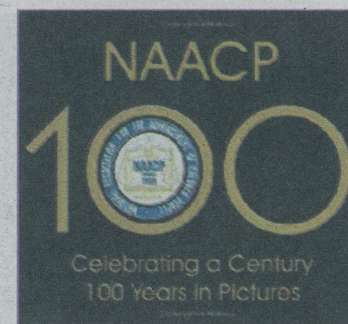
The pictures shine a light on the substantial growth the NAACP maintained over the next nine decades and the vast number of luminaries who grew from the movement that was taking place in the United States.

There were several cases that the NAACP took on to right the severe injustices taking place across the country; in many instances they were victorious in overturning previous racist rulings through the Supreme Court.

The NAACP was instrumental in galvanizing individuals from different backgrounds to unite for a common cause. These images chronicle the undeniable impact the organization made on the lives for the very people they were fighting so diligently for.

Some photos depict the triumphs and heartbreaks spanning from the Harlem Renaissance to present day.

The book also features quotes from prominent civil rights movement figures such as John Lewis and political figures such as Ver-



NAACP: CELEBRATING A CENTURY: 100 YEARS IN PICTURES

Compiled by NAACP and the Crisis Publishing Co., 456 pages, \$26.40, softcover

non Jordan. This book is a collage and a true memorial to all of the individuals who helped redefine generations and the United States of America for the better.

The best illustrations from this book come from the 1950s to 1970s. It was a time when America and the world as a whole were changing. Pictures of the people who played integral roles in lending helping hands will open your eyes to see how the movement moved people to do things often greater than themselves.

"NAACP: Celebrating a Century: 100 Years in Pictures" is a collection of breathtaking pictures and firsthand accounts that will intrigue even the most casual of readers, as well as a connoisseur of black history. It raises eyebrows on facts that have never been divulged to the public.

This book is something to truly treasure and it captures the essence of the barriers that blacks have overcome through the centuries.

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CIVIL WAR CALENDAR

LOCALLY:

"Fredericksburg Area Battlefields: Old Times Here Are Not Forgotten," opening Monday, March 1, Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center, Princess Anne and William streets, Fredericksburg. This temporary exhibit, which runs through July 31, examines how local battlefields were celebrated and remembered in the years immediately following the Civil War. The exhibit is the first in a series of shows the museum is creating to mark the 150th anniversary of the war. 540/371-3037, ext. 129; famcc.org.

"Defying Convention: Women, Race, and Class in the Civil War South," Sunday, March 21, 2 p.m., Gari Melchers Home and Studio at Belmont, 224 Washington St. Falmouth, sponsored by the Moncure Conway Foundation and the National Park Service. Dr. Victoria Bynum, emeritus professor of history at Texas State University, San Marcos, will speak about dissenters living in the South. Free. Reception will follow. For details, contact Anita Dodd at 540/752-9339 or e-mail a.dodd@dishmail.net; or visit moncureconway.org. Volunteers needed, White Oak Civil War Museum, Stafford County. Call Jerry Brent at 540/371-2729 or e-mail whoo74@yahoo.com.

ELSEWHERE:

Recruiting Day, Saturday, March 13, 1-4 p.m., at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road., Alexandria. Visitors can learn about how what is involved in becoming a military or civilian Civil War re-enactor. Free admission. 703/746-4848; fortward.org.

"Binding the Wounds 1861-2010," Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., seminar sponsored by the Museum of the Confederacy, Virginia Commonwealth University, Egyptian Building, 1123 East Marshall St., Richmond. Topics range from how medicine was practiced during the Civil War to how that practice has evolved to the present day. Cost is \$25 for non-members; \$15 for students. For tickets, call Sam Craghead at 804/649-1861, ext. 13, or e-mail samcraghead@moc.org. Tickets also may be purchased at the door or through the Web site at moc.org.

Stonewall Jackson Symposium, April 23-24, (registration deadline April 16) sponsored by the Stonewall Jackson House, Lexington. Lectures, which will be held at Washington and Lee University, will explore Jackson's career and personality. Speakers include Robert K. Krick, retired chief historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park; Robert E. L. Krick, George C. Rable, retired Brig. Gen. John W. Mountcastle, Chris Mackowski and Susan Church. Registration fee, which includes the lectures, optional tours and some meals, is \$270. For registration and details, call 540/463-2552 during weekday office hours; or send a check payable to Stonewall Jackson House, 8 East Washington St., Lexington, Va. 24450. Visit stonewalljackson.org.