

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE



ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

Opened in 2007 in honor of human rights activist Anne Braden, the Braden Institute bridges the gap between academic research and social justice activism.

Newsletter

Issue No. 4, Fall 2010

“A new massive thrust toward racial justice will not alone solve all the problems that face us, but I am convinced that unless such a thrust develops—one that is global in its outlook—the other problems will *not* be solved.” --Anne Braden, 1999

Anne Braden Institute Reading Room
258 Ekstrom Library

Open Mon-Thurs. 8:30-4:30; open til 6pm most Wednesdays; Fridays, evenings, & weekends by appointment.

Call (502) 852-6142 or come by!

New web address: www.louisville.edu/braden

Singer / Songtalker Bernice Reagon to Deliver 4th Annual Braden Lecture on November 5

We at the ABI are thrilled to bring the amazing Dr. Bernice Reagon to Louisville for our annual, signature event-- the Anne Braden Memorial Lecture. This year, UofL's School of Music is co-sponsoring the lecture.

“The Civil Rights Movement and Students: Creating a Vital, Transformative Change in the Struggle for American Freedom,” Dr. Reagon’s ‘songtalk’ will be held on Friday, November 5th at 6 pm in the School of Music’s Comstock Hall. It is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow the performance.

A renowned singer/composer, Bernice Reagon is a longtime musical and cultural leader in the southern civil rights movement. A native of Albany, GA, she got active there when the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) came to her hometown in the early 1960s. She also became a founding member of the SNCC Freedom Singers.

Some know her in later decades from her leading role in the *a capella* women’s musical group, “Sweet Honey in the Rock” or from her work as a cultural historian at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.



So what exactly is a “songtalk?” Here’s how Reagon describes her unique approach: “These days, I come as ‘songtalker,’ one who balances talk and song in the creation of a live performance conversation with those who gather within the sound of my voice. As a student leader and activist in the Albany Movement, I sang and stood in the sound of the congregational singing of the freedom songs charging the air we breathed. For the first time, I understood how the singing not only pulled us together, but became our articulate collective testimony to all who stood within the sound.”

For more than 45 years Dr. Reagon has been a major cultural voice for freedom and justice: singing, writing, speaking out against racism and inequities of all kinds. She knew Anne Braden as a friend, inspiration and sister in the struggle. In fact, her most recent visit to Louisville was in April 2006 when she offered a powerful tribute at Braden’s memorial. Reagon’s “songtalk” should be especially thought-provoking and moving since it will come just days after the midterm elections.

As always, we need your help to make sure there isn’t an empty seat in the auditorium. Please share this information with your family, friends, church/synagogue/mosque members, civic organizations and students. Flyers available soon!

This event continues our year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the southern student sit-ins and the birth of SNCC.

Sit-Ins’ 50th Anniversary

On Feb. 1, 1960, in Greensboro, NC, four young male students went into Woolworth, and at the lunch counter they “sat in.” When told they would not be served, they refused to leave-- sparking a youth movement throughout the South that ended legal segregation. The ABI spent a good part of the spring 2010 semester marking this important moment in U.S. civil rights history.

Several programs and publications engaged students and members of the public on the complexity and significance of this history. Starting on Feb. 1, the ABI launched an “e-celebration” of the sit-ins. For the entire month of February, hundreds of our followers on Facebook and Twitter received historical messages 5-7 times per day, all related to the sit-ins. The information included historic headlines from 50 years ago, links to oral histories with key

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**DIRECTOR'S
CORNER**



Greetings. I'm writing this director's note from home. Those of you who know me also probably know that I recently

embarked on a much-needed one-year sabbatical. Though I will continue as director, my absence from campus will bring new leadership to the ABI for this school year in the form of an acting-co-director, about whom you can read more elsewhere on this page.

I feel proud of what the ABI has become in the years since we started out in 2006, but I am also ready to step back for awhile in service of recharging my creative batteries. Over the coming year I plan to devote myself more fully to new research and writing on 20th-century U.S. southern social justice movement history. Hopefully by the next newsletter, I'll have more details to share on those writings!

One ABI project I will continue to work on this year is the development of our housing-justice work. Early in 2010 we launched an interdisciplinary reading group on housing as a social justice issue. We have worked closely with Metro Housing Coalition and Women in Transition on this endeavor, and the group has drawn from diverse campus and community housing interests—including activists, scholars of various disciplines, attorneys, students, even folk in real estate. The group has already hatched an idea for new research evaluating the impact of new Hope VI housing projects on those most in need of affordable housing. We are also continuing to seek funding for a study linking housing and school (de)segregation. Though some of us are chafing at so much study and not enough action, I have confidence that new knowledge and greater synchron-

icity in housing justice activism will emerge from our efforts.

The other big ABI news is our participation over the coming 2 years in a citywide racial healing project recently funded by the Kellogg Foundation. I'll also continue work this fall with Amber and our coalition partners on that project. It was initiated by the Center for Health Equity, under the leadership of Dr. Adewale Troutman—who did so much for this community's health and whose recent announcement of his departure saddens us. We plan to engage a cross-section of Louisvillians on the unfinished business of local and national civil rights movement history as a way to build youth leadership and create enduring new resources for advancing racial reconciliation. More on this soon!

--Cate Foster

NEW ABI STAFF

At the start of 2010, we welcomed a new program coordinator. Amber Duke holds an MA in Pan-African Studies and brings new media skills to the ABI staff from having spent the past 5 years as a local TV news producer. Amber is also acting co-director for the current school year. She is pictured here (L, photo courtesy of Jack Norris) with longtime Detroit-based activist leader Grace Lee Boggs at the US Social Forum this past sum-



mer. Amber represented the ABI in 2 workshops at the Social Forum. One was on "social networking and social justice," co-led by local activists Attica Scott (KY Jobs w/ Justice) and Shameka Parrish-Wright (Kentuckians for the Commonwealth). The other was as part of a panel discussing a film-in-progress on the life of Anne Braden, produced by Appalshop. If

you do not receive our weekly e-mails and would like to, or if you'd like to visit the ABI, call Amber at (502) 852-6142.

Sit-ins, Continued from p. 1

participants and historic photos from demonstrations that popped up across the nation. (These messages are still available by searching the archives of the ABI Facebook group and Twitter pages).

ABI Grad Assistant Tiffany Caesar (2nd from L in photo below) wrote, directed and starred in a sit-in re-enactment play she put on during a "sit-in lunch" at the ABI in early March. She recruited and directed Muhammad Ali Scholars and African American Theater students as the cast of characters in a "process drama."



The plot of the play follows a group of students who have expressed interest in joining the sit-ins though a training on how to react nonviolently and protect themselves when they reach the lunch counter. A short reflection by A&S Dean Blaine Hudson followed, concluding with a 1960s-style lunch consisting of sandwiches in wax paper, chips, small glass-bottle cokes and pie slices for dessert.

Our other grad assistant, Jennifer Oladipo, created an informational postcard about sit-ins as a form of protest, which we still have available.

Stay tuned for more sit-in commemorative events in early 2011 when we mark the 50th anniversary of the start of mass youth sit-ins in downtown Louisville.

The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate against persons on the basis of race, age, religion, sex, disability, color, sexual orientation, national origin or veteran status.

2010 Upcoming Events

- **September 20-27** is Pride Week at UofL! The ABI is once again a proud co-sponsor of the full week of events. The ABI will have a table at the Pride Kickoff Cookout at the Red Barn at noon Mon., **Sept. 20**. Visit www.louisville.edu/lgbt for the full schedule of events.
- **September 28 (Tues.):** Take Back the Night [co-sponsored with PEACC] is an annual event designed to bring together organizations, civic leaders, and individuals of Louisville and Jefferson County to protest violence against women and to promote awareness of the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors, which perpetuate this specific type of violence. Join us 5:30-7:30PM at the Red Barn.
- **October 6 (Wed.):** The ABI's Amber Duke leads media training as part of Women In Transition's Leadership School 6-8PM. Learn the inner workings of newsrooms & participate in hands-on activities to learn the best ways to get your issues covered in local media. Free and open to the public at 806 E. Chestnut.
- **October 13-15:** Kentucky Commission on Human Rights 50th Anniversary Civil & Human Rights Conference at KY International Convention Center. Register with the Kentucky Commission at <http://kchr.ky.gov/> to attend workshops, plenaries and much more. The Braden Institute will provide a guided tour of Louisville's civil rights history as part of the conference.
- **October 18-22** is UofL Campus Sustainability Week. Keep an eye on our listserv for details.
- **October 21 (Thurs.):** Join the ABI, Muhammad Ali Institute, Cultural Center, Women's Center, International Center, LGBT Services, UofL's Office of Civic Engagement, Leadership & Service, PEACC, and LGBT Services for our 2nd annual Breaking Bread progressive dinner on campus. Students, meet in the Quad starting at 4PM and visit each of these campus offices to get a little 'taste' of what they have to offer.
- **October 25-29** is Peace and Justice Week at UofL! The ABI is once again a proud co-sponsor. Join us **Wed., Oct. 27 at Noon** in Chao Auditorium as members of the ABI's Housing Justice Reading Group host a panel discussion on local housing justice. This event is free and open to the public. Stay tuned for other P&J events!
- **November 5 (Fri.), 6 pm:** 4th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture by activist/author/singer/songwriter **Bernice Reagon** [co-spons. by UofL School of Music]. Free: Comstock Hall, 2nd and Brandeis.
- Details TBA: We are planning a **community-based workshop on "Social Networking for Social Justice"** for later this fall. Check our listserv for date and time, coming soon.

ABI Uses Social Networking

The ABI is now tweeting and posting updates to our Facebook group daily! Join our 300+ fans on Facebook and 300+ followers on Twitter for information on ABI events, local and national social justice actions, group discussions, inspiring quotes & pictures and much more! If you are already following us, thanks! Don't forget to ask your friends to follow us too. For help on how to join, call Amber at 852-6142 or email agduke01@louisville.edu.



New ABI Student Team & Their Passions



The social justice issue I am passionate about is African American women's health. All people should have access to health care, regardless of their sex, the color of their skin, or social class. - Tamara Spiller, Graduate Assistant (Pan-African Studies)



I am most passionate about immigration reform. It is definitely one of the most pressing issues of concern today. I hope in the future to aid those who are in need of citizenship resources and provide social justice. - Raven Darkomensah, Bonner Student Leader (Poli-Sci)



The social justice issue I am most passionate about is LGBTQ rights. It is the last legally upheld form of segregation, and we cannot truly claim to be a free country until all of our citizens enjoy the same rights. -Carissa House-Dunphy, Work-Study Student (Humanities)

ABI Community Council

- Khalilah Collins
- Keneka Cheatham (staff rep)
- Judi Jennings
- Mari Mujica
- David Owen (faculty rep)
- Shameka Parrish-Wright
- Mimi Pickering (regional rep)
- Carla Wallace

ABI Affiliated Faculty

- J. Blaine Hudson, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- Tomarra Adams, assistant professor of Pan-African Studies
- David Anderson, associate professor of English
- Rhonda Buchanan, director, Latin American and Latino Studies / professor of Spanish
- Delinda Buie, professor, rare books curator, University Libraries*
- Nefertiti Burton, associate dean of Diversity, Community Outreach and International Programs; assoc. professor of Theatre Arts
- Thomas Byers, professor of English
- John Cumbler, professor of History
- Margaret D'Silva, professor of Communication
- Lauren Heberle, assistant professor of Sociology
- William C Hoston, assistant professor of Physics
- Katherine Burger Johnson, associate professor, Manuscript Collections Archivist, University Archives and Records Center*
- Ricky Jones, associate professor of Pan-African Studies
- Tracy K'Meyer, professor and chair of History
- Avery Kolers, associate professor of Philosophy
- Lisa Markowitz, associate professor and chair of Anthropology
- Theresa Rajack-Talley, associate professor and chair of Pan-African Studies
- Susanna Remold, assistant professor of Biology
- Kaila Story, assistant professor of Women's and Gender Studies/Pan-African Studies and Audre Lorde chair
- Nancy Theriot, professor and chair of Women's & Gender Studies
- Russ Vandenbroucke, professor and chair of Theatre Arts

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Yes, I want to contribute to the Braden Institute. My check is enclosed in the amount of _____.

Yes, I want to contribute to the Braden Institute. Please phone me at _____ to make arrangements for my credit card donation.

Yes, I want to help and stay informed. Please add me to your list-serv. My email is _____.

Yes, I want to help by volunteering.

Please call me at _____.

Make your gift to the University of Louisville Foundation, earmarked for the Anne Braden Institute--G1745. All donations are tax-deductible. Please clip & return to: Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, College of Arts and Sciences, 258 Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville, KY 40292.

Thank you for your support!