

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 racial and social
justice activism.*



Newsletter

Issue No. 7 Fall 2013

“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 (ABI) Reading Room
258 Ekstrom Library
Open Mon-Thurs 9-4:30; open until 6pm most Wednesdays; Fridays, evenings, & weekends by appointment
Call (502) 852-6142 or follow us on Facebook or Twitter
Web address: www.louisville.edu/braden

**Khalil Gibral Muhammad, author of
Condemnation of Blackness, to Give
7th Anne Braden Lecture on Nov. 20**

Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library and former associate professor at Indiana University Bloomington, will deliver the 7th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 5:30 pm.

The lecture will take place in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Activities Center and is free and open to the public. A book signing and reception will follow. Public parking is available at meters along Floyd Street and in the Floyd Street Garage for \$4/car.

Dr. Muhammad’s first book, *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*, published by Harvard University Press, won the 2011 John Hope Franklin Best Book award in American Studies. He is currently working on his second book, *Disappearing Acts: The End of White Criminality in the Age of Jim Crow*, which traces the historical roots of the changing demographics of crime and punishment we see today.

In a 2012 interview with Bill Moyers, Dr. Muhammad called history “the building block of all knowledge in our society” and African American history “a powerfully inspiring history. Because were it not for black people, for example, in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, the South might have taken another 50 years

to have public education. It was because of black political representatives in state congresses in the late 1860s and 1870s that they passed legislation to establish the first public education systems in the South. That’s a major contribution. And it demonstrates how important making real democracy is. And this country has ... that tradition of black activism to thank for that.”

Muhammad earned his Ph.D. in U.S. History from Rutgers University in 2004, and holds an honorary doctorate from The New School. He spent two years as an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit criminal justice reform agency in New York City, before joining the faculty of Indiana University. He has been director of the Schomburg since 2010.



Dr. Khalil Muhammad

Stay tuned for the title and more details! We’ll have plenty of seats, plus some standing room space in the Student Activities Center, so please help us spread the word about this lecture. Contact us to request flyers to share with your family, friends, civic organizations and students, or download a flyer from our website, <http://anne-braden.org/anne-brade-memorial-lectures/>.

Many have asked, & the answer is ... YES! We Do Need Volunteers!

Right now, we’re seeking volunteers who love:

- Reading about social justice. All quotes on our weekly listserv come from the more than 3,000 of the Bradens’ personal books we house in the ABI Reading Room. Choosing quotes is a great introduction to social justice.
- Louisville civil rights history. We designed a “Self-Guided Tour of Louisville’s Civil Rights History,” but groups often request a tour guide. You’ll be on a list of people we can call on to lead groups taking the tour.
- Graphic design. We always need fliers for our activities!
- Finding and asking for money. We’re always trying to expand our list of small and large foundations that provide funding for social justice research. We’re looking for someone to help us locate these foundations and perhaps submit proposals to them.



**A volunteer in the making?
Kai Cochran with mom Ebony (2007)**

Coming in 2014!--Another Landmark

The year 2014 will mark the 60th anniversary of events that launched Anne and Carl Braden's national anti-racism platform and changed Louisville housing forever. In May 1954, the Bradens bought a home for Andrew and Charlotte Wade, an African-American couple, in an all-white neighborhood. Segregationists would harass the Wades for weeks, ultimately dynamiting the home on a night the family happened to be away.

In the months that followed, amid a fearful Cold-War climate, the Bradens and five other white activists were arrested and charged with sedition. The Commonwealth's Attorney accused them of planning the purchase and the bombing as part of a communist plot to destabilize race relations and overtake the government of Kentucky. The Wades would never again occupy their dream home.

Working with partners, the Braden Institute intends to mark this anniversary in Fall 2014 with a trial reenactment and with an exhibit at the Louisville Free Public Library. The public library also ordered copies of *The Wall Between*, Anne's 1958 memoir of the case, to be available to library patrons and to promote book groups.

Next year also marks what would have been Anne Braden's 90th birthday. Born July 28, 1924, Anne believed in organizing, not just commemorating. We intend to honor her wishes by linking our remembrances of these anniversaries with action. Many plans are in the works; look out for more information about the 60th anniversary of the Wade case in the summer of 2014!



In 2013, groups from Western Kentucky University, Indiana University, Gulf South Summit, and KY Governor's Scholars Program (pictured here at the Wade home marker) have taken Louisville's Civil Rights History tour, guided by ABI staff. Steve Easley, GSP instructor (squatting), wrote to thank A&S Dean John Ferré for Cate Fosl and Mariam Williams "providing my students with an exceptional experience."

History Tours, Housing Action

About 150 people filled three buses on April 23, 2013, to take a bus tour designed to illustrate Louisville's segregated housing history and the institutionalized racism that has allowed pervasive local housing inequality to continue. Cate Fosl gave a presentation on this topic before the tour. NAACP president Raoul Cunningham, long-time *Courier-Journal* editor and *Two Centuries of Black Louisville* co-author Merv Aubespin, Dr. Fosl, Walter Hutchins, Charlene Holloway, and Mariam Williams served as tour guides.

Louisville was the fourth city in Kentucky to participate in "Get on the Bus: The Path Toward Equal Housing Opportunity," an initiative developed by the Lexington Fair Housing Council to com-

memorate the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. Frankfort, Lexington, and Covington have conducted tours in previous years.

This event was also an opportunity to inform the public about Louisville's upcoming 20-Year Fair Housing Action Plan. In 2012, Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission partnered with the Braden Institute and Metropolitan Housing Coalition to research and produce a 20-Year Action Plan to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing in Louisville Metro. A grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded the research. The 20-Year Action Plan will make recommendations and establish goals for a long-term plan to continuously improve fair housing choice in our community and to ensure fair housing laws are emphasized and enforced. As of this newsletter's deadline, the final report has been approved by all partners and forwarded to HUD. It will likely be released to the public before year's end, so check with us on using its findings for change!



Since "Get on the Bus," the ABI staff has given one group a modified version of the housing history tour. In August, 17 teens from American Jewish Society for Service nationwide came to the ABI to learn about local housing justice as part of their six-week service trip with YouthBuild Louisville. For the ABI, "Get on the Bus" kicked off a summer full of more civil rights and housing history tours given to high school and college students from across the region, as depicted in the photo at left.

New Collaborations on the Horizon

The year 2013 marks a major anniversary year for the civil rights movement, but with the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, Dream activism for immigration reform, the evisceration of the Voting Rights Act, and growing conservatism in the South, 2013 has been a pivotal year in its own right. In light of our mission to highlight the unfinished business of the civil rights movement, we at the ABI found ourselves among many groups who feel the need to connect past victories to present struggles.

With input from many on campus, including ABI program coordinator Mariam Williams, Dr. Ricky Jones--chair of UofL's Pan-African Studies Dept. and an ABI faculty affiliate--has developed a series of teach-ins, forums, and lectures to raise these issues with a more powerful collective voice.

Known as "Project Progress" and spanning five years to cover the "heroic period" of the movement (1963-1968), this dynamic educational series will provide deeper context and analysis of the events of the era, starting this fall with the events of 1963. Dr. Jones also hopes it will lead to "scholarly publications and policy papers on how far the country has advanced in certain areas and explore what socio-political challenges lie ahead." A university-wide initiative, "Project Progress" is in its planning phase, so check our website, Twitter feed (@abiatsuofl), and Facebook group for updates.

Additionally, we are partnering with the Carl Braden Memorial Center and Michele Hemenway, local social studies educator, to bring the Louisville Civil Rights History tour into Jefferson County Public Schools this fall. Hemenway plans to revamp the tour for elementary ages by focusing on sites related to Muhammad Ali and to Anne Braden. Fifth-grade students from Breckinridge-Franklin will co-author a book for their peers about the tour. We also are working on curricula for JCPS middle and high school teachers that would use the tour to promote wider understanding of civil rights history in and beyond the 1950s-60s.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



by **Mari Mujica**

With this note I begin officially my tenure as ABI acting director. I am humbled and excited to take on this temporary role while Cate Fosl is off to Scotland and South Africa for the fall.

Cate, Mariam, and I have spent part of the summer working on a smooth transition and planning what promises to be a very exciting and full fall semester.

Those of you whom I have been privileged to work with or know on campus in the past would know that although I am new to this position, I am not totally new to UofL. I have taught in Women's and Gender Studies and have conducted diversity and inclusion workshops in A&S. I have also collaborated with the Cultural and LGBT Centers and have had two photo-ethnographies exhibited on campus: the first, "Trans Gender Images-Trans Gender Lives," and the second and most recent, "Latina Immigrants." Needless to say, I am excited to be back and further develop these and other relationships connecting campus to wider community.

This newsletter is going to print as many commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, an anniversary that calls us to examine the new and not so new ways in which a movement for justice is more than ever necessary. Here at the ABI, we hope you will join us as we collaborate with and participate in the many campus activities that are here to help us grow and better understand the role each of us can play in creating a brighter future with jobs, peace, and freedom for all.

I invite you to look at the calendar in this newsletter and take advantage of the many opportunities to learn and plug into history in the making on and off campus. We also invite you to check our website [www.louisville.edu/braden] or our weekly listserv for events. To sign on to receive it if you have not yet done so, send an email to bradeninstitutesocialjustice@gmail.com.

Please stop by during our **open house on Thursday, September 12th between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm** to meet the entire ABI team. Throughout the fall, I hope I can count on your support to contribute, in Cate's absence, to strengthening the relationships between each of you and the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. Thank you for working with us as we continue to bridge the gap between academic research and racial and social justice activism!

Meet our New Program Coordinator

In January 2013, the Anne Braden Institute welcomed Mariam Williams to its full-time staff as the new program coordinator. Readers may remember her from last year when she worked part-time on various projects.

Mariam is excited to join the ABI staff in a permanent capacity and found herself busy right away stepping into the Institute's ongoing projects, such as the Fair Housing Action Plan and the Civil Rights Tour. She has spent much of the summer taking groups on the Civil Rights Tour, securing a speaker for our fall lecture and leading the writing for this newsletter. Mariam was working as a freelance journalist and copyeditor prior to coming to the ABI and hopes to use those skills effectively in her new position.



We're having an open house to introduce Mariam and Mari on September 12th. Please stop by Ekstrom Library room 258 between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm to say hello.

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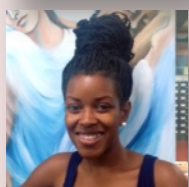
New ABI Student Team: Their Bios & Favorite Quotes



Amina Ahmed is a work-study student--a senior majoring in History and African Studies. Amina has worked at the institute for the past three years and is excited to continue to see the development and commitment of social justice research here at UofL and in the community at large. She hopes to further her studies in the future in hopes of one day working amongst all those committed to change. "Struggle is par for the course when our dreams go into action. But unless we have the space to imagine and a vision of what it means fully to realize our humanity, all the protests and demonstrations in the world wont bring about our liberation"-- Robin D.G. Kelley, from *Freedom Dreams*



Lauren Copeland is a Graduate Assistant and a second-year master's student in Women's and Gender Studies. Her academic interests include global queer movements, the appropriation of the past in LGBT organizing, and the tension and overlap among activists and academics. She hopes to continue her studies in a PhD program and help bridge some of the gaps between academic study and activist work. "Go where the silence is and say something." -Amy Goodman



Alexis Johnson is a Graduate Assistant and a first year master's student in Pan-African Studies. She obtained her undergraduate degree in English from Francis Marion University in Florence, SC. Alexis happily anticipates her work in the ABI, as she believes the knowledge and experience she will gain will advance her goal of becoming a scholar-activist. "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." —Martin Luther King, Jr.

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ABI Affiliated Faculty

- Tomarra Adams, associate professor of Pan-African Studies
- David Anderson, associate professor of English
- Rhonda Buchanan, director, Latin American and Latino Studies / professor of Spanish
- Delinda Buié, professor, rare books curator, University Libraries*
- Nefertiti Burton, associate dean of A&S Diversity, Community Outreach and International Programs; associate professor of Theatre Arts
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- Susanna Remold, associate professor of Biology
- Siobhan Smith, assistant professor of Communication
- Kaila Story, associate professor of Women's and Gender Studies / Pan-African Studies and Audre Lorde chair
- Nancy Theriot, professor and chair of Women's & Gender Studies
- Shelley Thomas, assistant professor of Social Studies Education*
- Russ Vandenbroucke, professor of Theatre Arts

*=ex-officio

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Thank you for your support!