

FREEDOM FUND EVENT 2022

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 6PM-9PM

Theme: Get Out The Vote

Location: Hybrid* at St. Anselm's Institute of Politics

** In-person and streamed live via Zoom*

The Freedom Fund Dinner is our way of lifting up those who exemplify the values and philosophy of the NAACP. It is a time to come together and celebrate each other and recognize heroes for social justice.

The focus for 2023 will be **Get Out The Vote**. Join us to learn about voting rights, strengthening protections for election workers, ballots, and election infrastructure, and how the Manchester NAACP Branch will be advancing voter engagement and democracy in 2023.



NAACP®

Manchester Branch

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Program Schedule

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Tracy Strombom

Welcome Message: Mr. Arnold Mikolo

Invocation: Reverend Renee Rouse

Performance: Ms. Jennifer Pei, vocalist
Lift Every Voice and Sing

President's Remarks: Mr. James T. McKim Jr.

New England Area Conference President
Remarks: Mr. Juan Cofield

——— BREAK ———

Keynote Speaker: Reverend Mark A. Thompson

Award Presentations: Mr. James T. McKim Jr.

Closing Remarks: Ms. Donna Brown, Esq.

——— RAFFLE DRAWING ———

Benediction: Reverend Renee Rouse

Welcome to the 2022 Freedom Fund Event!



As you may know, the Freedom Fund Event is our largest fundraising effort of the year. It fuels our activities for the entire year.

This year's event comes as we seem to be coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Things seem to be returning to "normal". We are out and about again without masks—beginning to enjoy life again.

But is "back to normal" really where we want to be? The pandemic exposed disparities of that "normal" time for people of color in all walks of life from healthcare to economic opportunity to criminal justice. They created a hunger for justice in more people of all races than we have ever seen. But in the last year, we have seen legislation that threatens to sweep under the rug any discussion of the inequities that were laid bare by the pandemic. Thus, we need to refocus our efforts from pandemic to civic engagement.

To help us make that shift, this year's event topic is Getting Out The Vote. And to help us understand why this moment is crucial for us to vote, we are pleased to have nationally known activist and host of the *Make It Plain* podcast Rev. Mark Thompson as our keynote speaker and special guest. He will lay the foundation for the work the Branch will be doing over the next year to push for getting out the vote in the Greater Manchester Area. I hope you will hear his message and work with us to live into it.

The purpose of this event is to lift up those who have been exemplary in their actions to fulfill the NAACP's mission to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. I offer my congratulations to all our award winners.

This is the second year our event is hybrid, as so many events have now become. It is no small feat to put on. I am so very proud of the way the Freedom Fund Committee has worked to make this event happen. My thanks to them, to our sponsors, and to you for your attendance in what I know will be a great event we will be talking about for years to come!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. McKim Jr." in a cursive script.

Mr. James T. McKim Jr., Manchester NAACP President

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Mark A. Thompson

The Rev. Mark A. Thompson has spent most of his life as a political, civil rights & human rights activist and organizer. He not only has been a part of every major social justice movement & event over the past 40 years, he has also been a radio broadcaster for three decades, and he has spent over 10 years as a television commentator, as well. Rev. Mark hosts *Make It Plain* (MIP), a political, human rights and breaking news podcast. Rev. Mark's lifelong social justice activism intersects with his years of experience broadcasting the news and issues of the day. Newsmakers, politicians, policy-makers, entertainers and athletes alike make MIP a frequent sojourn.

In 2021, *MIP* was named among Best Civil Rights Podcasts, Best Human Rights Podcasts, Best Podcasts About Social Justice and Best Broadcast Television Podcasts.

Rev. Mark was honored at the 104th Annual NAACP Convention in Orlando in July 2013 "for 25 years of crusading journalism and outstanding leadership in furthering the work of civil and human rights."

Rev. Mark was ordained a minister of the Gospel by NAACP DC Branch President and NAACP National Board Member, the Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Sr. at Israel Baptist Church in Washington, DC. The Rev. Dr. Walter E. Fauntroy, MLK's Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Washington Bureau, was a member of Rev. Mark's ordination council.

Rev. Mark has emceed the Million Man March, every anniversary of the Million Man March, every anniversary of the March on Washington, and the annual Jubilee commemoration of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, where he also serves on the Jubilee board.

As a member of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) Litigation Commission, Rev. Mark was also one of the organizers of the 2002 Millions for Reparations March, and its emcee. He is an active advocate for passage of H.R. 40, the Congressional legislation to establish a Commission to study and develop reparations proposals.

Rev. Mark chaired the NAACP Metropolitan Police and Criminal Justice Review Task Force for the DC Branch. In that capacity, he co-authored legislation establishing the Board and Office of Police Complaints, and facilitated the beginning of an unprecedented study on racial profiling. He also taught courses in diversity awareness and cultural sensitivity at the DC Police Academy. For its work, the Task Force was honored by the Gay & Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC.

He is a Life Member of the NAACP, the National Action Network, the National Congress of Black Women and the National Organization of Women. He is a member of the Senior Advisory Board for the Institute of Politics, Policy and History at the University of the District of Columbia. And he is a member of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. He is an active organizer for the Poor People's Campaign, the Black Church Political Action Committee, Community First Solutions and he works in solidarity with Black Voters Matter and Until Freedom. Rev. Mark is also a frequent guest in pulpits around the nation.

Rev. Mark attended the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service before earning his Bachelor's in Journalism from the University of the District of Columbia. He earned his Masters in Divinity from Howard University.

Rev. Mark lives in New York, NY, and is the proud father of a daughter in STEM, and a son who is an NCAA student athlete playing college baseball.



Awards

Please see the program insert for a list of 2022 awards and their recipients.

*Congratulations
to all our recipients!*



History of the NAACP

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1909 by a multiracial group activist and interested citizens. The principal objective of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of minority group citizens of the United States. The NAACP is committed to non-violence and relies upon the press, the petition, the ballot, and the courts, even in the face of overt and violent racial hostility.



Manchester, New Hampshire Branch #2069 was established in 1964 by a group of Black and white citizens who believed in the democratic process to ensure equal opportunity for all. The organization was founded at a time in the history of New Hampshire when the minority population was very small. Residents of African descent were subjected to the typical social practices current at that time. As the nascent Civil Rights movement was emerging in the South, the New Hampshire Union Leader became a vocal opponent; however, the Manchester NAACP founders believed that the principles of freedom and democracy were not limited by race, creed or color. They came together to form a chapter of the NAACP, the premier civil rights organization of the day, as a beacon of support for brotherhood and civil rights.

In its 55-year history, the leadership and membership of the organization has been a testament to the diversity of Manchester, New Hampshire. Branch activities have included housing and employment discrimination programs, college preparation workshops and support for the passage of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. state holiday. Individuals of every age, race, religion and creed have been members of the Manchester Branch. Despite the challenges faced by members, Branch #2069 has been chartered for 55 years continuously. We continue to carry on the tradition of the largest and oldest, the best and boldest civil rights organization in America.

BELOW: At the founding meeting of the Branch, Roy Ottoway Wilkins (executive secretary of the national NAACP, 1955-1977) predicts the Senate passage of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, which had survived the House in February of that year. [Nashua Telegraph for Monday, March 16, 1964]

Vote on Civil Rights by May Wilkins Says in Manchester

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — The executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) last night chided Rep. Louis C. Wyman, R - N.H., for voting against the Civil Rights bill.

And Roy Wilkins, speaking at a NAACP rally at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, also had a few critical remarks for the Manchester Union Leader and its publisher, William Loeb.

Wilkins said he cannot understand "how in the world Louis Wyman can find in this state a reason for voting against the Civil Rights bill." He added: "I would hope our Manchester branch would pray for Mr. Wyman, and failing prayer, try a more practical approach."

Wyman also spoke on the Civil Rights issue yesterday and said he opposed the measure because it would take away more rights from more people than it would provide.

Speaking before about 1,500 persons who attended the charter ceremonies of the Manchester NAACP branch, Wilkins took issue with the Union Leader for a recent advertisement the paper published.

Wilkins termed the advertisement — which attacked the Civil Rights bill — "distorted, sly, untruthful, half-truthful and just plain lies."

Wilkins said both he and Loeb are spokesmen for minority groups. "I for a numerical minority and he for a philosophical minority."

Regarding the Civil Rights bill, Wilkins derided opposition which used the phrase "states rights" as a weapon.

"States rights mean Jim Crow education, Jim Crow justice," he said. "In Mississippi there are 490,000 Negroes who can't vote."

And he predicted the bill will reach the floor of the Senate by mid-May.

A Manchester attorney, Winthrop Wadleigh, was installed as president of the Manchester NAACP chapter. Also on hand for the ceremonies was the Rev. Placidus O. Riley, dean of St. Anselm's College.

Raifeigh Parham, president of the Nashua branch of the NAACP was on the platform. Rupert Perkins of Nashua led the 1500 in attendance in singing.

Mission

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Vision Statement

The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

Objectives

The following statement of objectives is found on the first page of the NAACP Constitution—the principal objectives of the Association shall be:

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.

Manchester NAACP Branch Officers

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Dr. Tracy Strombom

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2022 Freedom Fund Planning Committee

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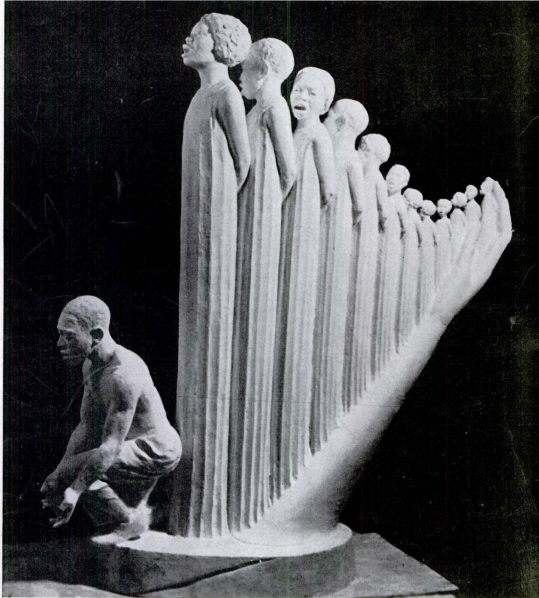
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NAACP®

Lift Every Voice And Sing Lyrics

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"LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING"
Augusta Savage's Sculpture for the New York World's Fair

ABOVE: "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" or "The Harp", a sculpture created by Harlem Renaissance artist Augusta Savage for the World's Fair, depicted on the cover of the April 1939 issue of the NAACP's *The Crisis* magazine.

Often referred to as "*The Black National Anthem*," *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900.

At the turn of the 20th century, Johnson's lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans. Set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom, the song was later adopted by NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.
Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Become a Member Today!



NAACP

Manchester Branch

Manchester, NH Unit #2069

Manchester NAACP Monthly Meetings

Our membership meets every fourth Thursday of each month to discuss important issues that are affecting our community. Our Committees meet monthly to plan ways to address these issues in the sectors of education, health, economy, environment, and criminal justice.

Visit:

**[naacpmanchesternh.com/
become-a-member](http://naacpmanchesternh.com/become-a-member)**

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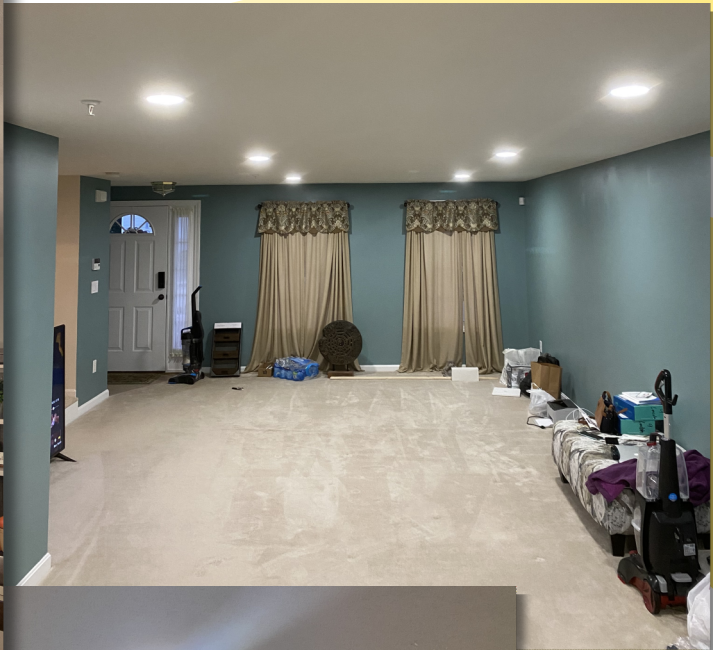


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Saint Anselm College salutes the
NAACP's work towards racial justice.
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MANCHESTER, NH UNIT #2069

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Be sure to take pictures during
tonight's event and post them
to be shared using the tags:

#FreedomFundNH2022

@NAACPManchester2069



NAACP
Manchester Branch



for 40 years, New Hampshire Peace Action has been educating, organizing, and mobilizing for a more peaceful world. We are a proud supporter and working partner of the NAACP, and are honored to sponsor this event.

STAND UP FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE! VOTE NOVEMBER 8

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