FREEDOM RIDE

As if, after High Street
And the left turn onto Exchange,
The view would veer onto
Someplace fresh: Curacao,
Or a mosque adrift on a milk-fed pond.
But there’s just more cloud cover,
And germy air
Condensing on the tinted glass,
And the little houses with
Their fearful patches of yard
Rushing into the flames.

Pull the cord a stop too soon, and
You’ll find yourself walking
A gauntlet of stares.
Daydream, and you’ll wake up
In the stale dark of a cinema,
Dallas playing its mistake over and over
Until even that sad reel won’t stay
Stuck – there’s still
Bobby and Malcolm and Memphis,
At every corner the same
Scorched brick, darkened windows.

Make no mistake: There’s fire
Back where you came from, too.
Pick any stop: You can ride
Into the afternoon singing with strangers,
Or rush home to the scotch
You’ve been pouring all day –
But where you sit is where you’ll be
When the fire hits.

—Rita Dove

January 26, 2019
The Fannie Lou Hamer Story: A One-Woman Play
Muriel Moyu Ambaraye
Old Cabell Hall, 7 pm
For one night, Ms. Ambaraye channels Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer and takes the audience on a riveting 60-minute journey of storytelling integrated with eleven power-songs coupled with a video montage to raise awareness about Mrs. Hamer’s activism whose efforts led to the passage of the Voter’s Rights Act of 1965.
Tickets Free but required.
February 1, 2019
Black History Month Reading: Black History Makers: 2019
Hosted by Atif Lanier
Newcomb Hall Ballroom, 6:30 pm
Guests: Oral historian, historian, and her passion for history to conceptualize, found, and build The Black History Makers.
February 6, 2019
“Who Wants to be a History Maker?”
Newcomb Hall Ballroom, 6:30 pm
Hosted by Atif Lanier
Discussion facilitated by Dean Mason.
February 15, 2019
“Gender and Money”
Newcomb Hall Ballroom, 6:30 pm
Inspired by Ursula Burns, Student Financial Services Presents: “Gender and Money.”
February 22, 2019
“Gender and Money”
W.E.B. DuBois Conference Room, 5-7 pm
Inspired by Ursula Burns, Student Financial Services Presents: “Gender and Money.”
February 25, 2019
“History Making” Evening:
Keynote Address by Juliana Richardson.
Awards Banquet
Newcomb Hall Ballroom, 6:30 pm
Inspired by Ursula Burns, Student Financial Services Presents: “Gender and Money.”
February 27, 2019
“Gender and Money”
W.E.B. DuBois Conference Room, 5-7 pm
Inspired by Ursula Burns, Student Financial Services Presents: “Gender and Money.”
February 1: Ellis Marsalis, Jr. Themed Black Friday:
1:30 to 3:30 pm LPJ Black Cultural Center.
Jazz pianist and professor Ellis Louis Marsalis, Jr. was born on November 19, 1944 in New Orleans, Louisiana. As a young child, Marsalis played clarinet and tenor saxophone, but later switched to piano. In 1959, Marsalis earned his B.A. degree in music education from Dillard University. One year later, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps for a two-year stint. In 1974, Marsalis joined the National Endowment for the Arts, where he worked for the next twelve years. Marsalis earned his M.A. degree from Loyola University-New Orleans in 1986. That same year, he joined the faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. In 1989, Marsalis began to teach at the University of New Orleans where he served as budge of Jazz Studies until his retirement in 2001. The recipient of an honorary doctorate degree from Tulane University in 2007, Marsalis was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame on December 7, 2008.
February 8: Isaac Hayes Themed Black Friday:
1:30 to 3:30 pm LPJ Black Cultural Center.
Isaac Hayes was the second-born child of Isaac Sr. and Eula Hayes, but was raised by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Wade Sr. The child of a poor family, he grew up picking cotton. Hayes attended high school and was encouraged later by his former high school teachers to get his diploma. He earned a diploma at the age of 21. In 1967, he signed with Criteria Records, a subsidiary of Atlantic Records. He wrote and produced hits for James Brown, The Isley Brothers, and others. Hayes was a composer, singer, and arranger who played the piano, vibraphone and saxophone equally well. In 1971 he won an Academy Award for Best Original Song for his theme song for the film SHAFT (1971) and was nominated for Best Original Dramatic Score for Shaft (1971). February 15: Barack Obama Themed Black Friday:
1:30 to 3:30 pm LPJ Black Cultural Center.
President Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He attended Occidental College before transferring to Columbia University in New York where he became involved in social activism. After graduation, Obama became a community organizer. He enrolled at Harvard Law School and became president of the Harvard Law Review, the first African American to hold this position. After receiving his J.D. degree, Obama worked at Chicago law firm, Miner, Barnhill & Galland. Obama ran for a vacant Illinois Senate seat in 2004 and was elected to represent the 13th Legislative District. In 2008, Obama successfully ran for a seat in the Illinois Senate representing Illinois, becoming only the fifth African American Senator in U.S. history. In 2008, Obama was elected the United States’ forty-fourth president, becoming the country’s first African American president, and serving for two terms.