

THE 41ST ANNUAL MARION THOMPSON WRIGHT LECTURE

Presented by The Clement A. Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience

one begins AGAIN

"And when the dream was slaughtered...not everything was lost. Responsibility cannot be lost, it can only be abdicated. If one refuses abdication, one begins again."

—James Baldwin, *Just Above My Head*, 1979

ethnicity.rutgers.edu | RSVP to join this year's conference via Zoom

One Begins Again: Organizing & the Historical Imagination

Alicia Garza, Bill Fletcher Jr., and Cara Page, each in important ways, speak about organizing as a means to healing generations of society-wide injustice.

Each has devoted their lives to the work of organizing, understanding the conditions shaped by the past, and testing what works and what doesn't.

Each demonstrates how this invested, critical-practical work of understanding deep historical patterns helps us reimagine the present to invest it with the possibilities of change.

Each envisions better, potential Americas, or in the words of Langston Hughes, "The land that never has been yet—And yet must be."

This forward-moving, liberating historical imagination is an act of aware, purpose-filled, enriched living in the here and now.

This visioning sparks ongoing movement building and the new possibilities for a life- and planet-sustaining near future.

About the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series

The Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture (MTW) series was co-founded in 1981 by Clement A. Price, Giles R. Wright, and the MTW Study Club, who launched the series with the conviction that understanding the historical context of racism would aid in organizing struggles building a beloved community and a better world.

The conference is named in honor of East Orange native Marion Thompson Wright (1902–1962), the first black female to earn a history PhD—the focus was on "The Education of Negroes in New Jersey" (Columbia University, 1941). Her research helped the NAACP overturn the "separate but equal" doctrine in "Brown v. Board of Education." Later, she joined the faculty of Howard University where she was devoted to nurturing students.

In her honor, the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series brings outstanding thinkers and doers of African and African American life and history. Diverse, civically engaged, and devoted to life-long learners, the MTW Series is one of the nation's most distinguished and longest running lectures. The Clement A. Price Institute is devoted to building deep historical justice in our region and beyond.

For questions, please contact us at priceinstitute@newark.rutgers.edu

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Program

Saturday

February 20, 2021

9:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

9:30 Blessing

Chief Vincent Mann – *Chief of the Turtle Clan, Ramapough Lenape Nation; Water Protector and Community Organizer*

9:35 Welcome to MTW #41

Jack Tchen – *Director Clement A. Price Institute*

9:45 Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

9:50 Opening Remarks

Ras J. Baraka – *Mayor of the City of Newark*

Nancy Cantor – *Chancellor, Rutgers University - Newark*

Jonathan Holloway – *President, Rutgers University*

10:10 Marion Thompson Wright Speakers

Bill Fletcher Jr.
Cara Page
Alicia Garza

11:15 Discussion

Barbara Ransby with Bill Fletcher Jr., Cara Page, and Alicia Garza.

12:15 Performance

Reverend Lennox Yearwood, Jr.
– *President and Founder, Hip Hop Caucus*

12:25 Presentation of Giles R. Wright Award

New Jersey Historical Commission

12:30 Performance

Helena D. Lewis – *Poet*

12:45 Thank You and Closing Remarks

Jack Tchen
Jacqueline Mattis – *Rutgers - Newark SASN Dean*

Speakers



Alicia Garza, Principal at Black Futures Lab, author of *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart*, and co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter.



Cara Page, Black Queer Feminist cultural/memory worker, curator, and organizer focusing on holding the Medical Industrial Complex accountable.



Bill Fletcher Jr., Author of *"They're Bankrupting Us!": And Twenty Other Myths About Unions*; labor organizer; syndicated columnist; senior scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies; and editorial board member of *BlackCommentator.com*.



Barbara Ransby, John D. MacArthur Chair, and Distinguished Professor, in the Departments of African American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

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