**THE 41ST ANNUAL MARION THOMPSON WRIGHT LECTURE**

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

"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

**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 Mattias – 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).

One begins AGAIN

**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 understanding the conditions shaped by injustice.

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.

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

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