



## Briefing Points

- The National Alliance of Faith and Justice and primary partners, the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the National CARES Mentoring Movement (in select locations) and agencies such as the National Park Service and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency in Washington, DC, are pleased to announce plans for the 2014 **Justice Sunday™ National Continuum**, which will kick-off with the annual observance of **Justice Sunday™** on January 19, 2014.
- Open to all, in cities across the country and observed in affiliate locations, this annual event launches a continuum of service which places priority upon mentoring and ongoing efforts to change hearts, minds, and improve lives by integrating commemoration with national service on the day prior to and continuing for the full year beyond the federal holiday observed as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.
- The theme of Justice Sunday™ 2014, *“To Serve This Present Age One For All,”* invites the nation to honor Dr. King in his vocation as a clergy and those of faith who did and continue to serve.
- Justice Sunday™ may occur as a special segment within a service to encourage subsequent volunteerism within or outreach beyond the immediate faith setting or it may be designated an entire special emphasis service with a subsequent recruitment/service activity to follow as attendees exit.

## Saluting Civil Rights In America and Youth Engagement

- Emphasizing the role of faith, its volunteers, and institutions in the story of civil rights in American, the National Alliance of Faith and Justice has entered into cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to assist in planning and execution of youth centered 2013-2018 civil rights commemorative events across the country and preserved and interpreted by sites within the National park system;
  - Justice Sunday™ 2014 serves as a countdown to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
  - The Act was a landmark piece of civil rights legislation in the United States that outlawed major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities, and women;
  - Dr. King spoke of the demands of freedom, the security of justice, and the urgency of now.
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> annual national commemoration of Justice Sunday™, observed January 19, 2014, offers cities and communities nationwide a key benchmark in efforts to dismantle inequities, advocate solutions and alternatives to violence, and recognize the selfless service of Dr. King as a clergy and the role of volunteers of diverse faiths in efforts to achieve human dignity and equality and as key stakeholders of social change;
  - Through the PEN OR PENCIL™ National Initiative, NAFJ encourages mentees, their mentors, and parents to utilize and appreciate the untold and under-told stories of self-determination, courageous, relevancy, and lifelong lessons which are inspired by the National Network To Freedom Underground Railroad and other cultural sites and to visit the physical sites or using online visitation;
  - The Justice Sunday™ Continuum (the year to follow) includes delivery of empirically sound, curriculum-based learning which translates the untold and under told stories of African Americans into relevant life applications (the PEN OR PENCIL™ National Initiative presented in 15 states) to inform, change hearts and adverse behaviors, and to enhance academic performance to inspire productive careers, improved economic mobility and security, and greater social well-being for all Americans;
  - Mentoring is a valued service to improve the lives of youth in academic performance, life skills, employment and transitional preparation, and many other connections necessary foster equitable access to this nation's resources.

## Strategic Partnerships

- The continuum will renew priorities of NAFJ, the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency of Washington, DC, and like-minded citizens across the country to encourage mentoring, reading, and tutoring and to support the many children, particularly (but not exclusively) those of color who experience themselves and who become returning adult citizens who experience many disadvantages and disparities that have been influenced in part by deeply-held and often unconscious bias frequently at the core of structural racism;
  - Justice Sunday will announce and mark the official planning, strategic partnership, and countdown of NAFJ and NABCJ to introduce and renew efforts to have a strong voice in the reinvestment of justice by challenging the school to prison pipeline.
  - After race-based disfranchisement has officially ended, legislation steeped in a legacy of racial discrimination continues to perpetuate a dichotomy of suffrage and citizenship that is still effecting outcomes today.
  - Findings suggest that residents of neighborhoods with high incarceration rates are less likely to participate politically or engage in volunteer activities within their communities;<sup>1</sup>
- Justice Sunday™ can become a strategic crossroad and benchmark to organizations and institutions of faith to unite, initiate, and orchestrate a shared vision of change and a goal of realizing one million volunteer mentors, readers, and tutors.
- Justice Sunday™ has been observed by millions nationally since 2004 as a precursor for the MLK Day of Service and was trademarked for priorities herein described by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice in 2005.

## Justice and Sunday

- Both the term “**justice**” and “**Sunday**” are deeply seeded in faith, service, the protection and furtherance of human and civil rights.
  - In a message delivered by Dr. King, he once cited his disappointment with attitudes of segregation which traditionally occurred in worship environments nationwide at 11am on Sunday;

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<sup>1</sup> [\*Trading Democracy for Justice: Criminal Convictions and the Decline of Neighborhood Political Participation\*](#), Traci Burch, assistant professor of political science at Northwestern University,

- Today at this timeframe or other standard worship hours, Justice Sunday™ can become a benchmark for unity and action.
- It was from pulpits that the charge was often sounded during the civil rights movement to empower the brigades of volunteers and foot soldiers of justice.
- Leaders of faith often stood on the front lines of bitter and dangerous sacrifice for justice, and was with colleagues of faith and justice that Dr. King discussed mobilization strategies;
- It was volunteers of faith and community who stood with leaders and persons concerned about equality to transcend denominational, gender, strong political, social, racial, economic, generational, and so many other divides for the cause of justice and “needle-moving” change.
- It was Dr. Martin Luther King, a husband and father, supported by his wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, who by faith rose to become the powerful voice and a drum major for justice.
- Though faith traditions may vary and Sabbath is also observed as a primary day of worship, Sunday marks a day on which congregations of diverse backgrounds gather in fellowship, renewal, thanks, and are inspired to serve.

## Variables Which Support the Specified Week

- America has a long history of efforts that were groundbreaking and changed the lives of many individuals, helping shape advances and the continued quest for justice today.
- Communities can point to numerous examples of collaborations and innovation created to solve very complex local and national problems.
- The issues of justice for which Dr. King gave his life have improved but continue to require the courage, persistence, innovation, and acknowledgment of volunteers to address unmet and costly needs.
- Volunteers help to preserve public safety, fill critical gaps where federal, state, and local resources are not available, and work to engage the rich diversity of American religious communities in partnerships to strengthen the common good in America.

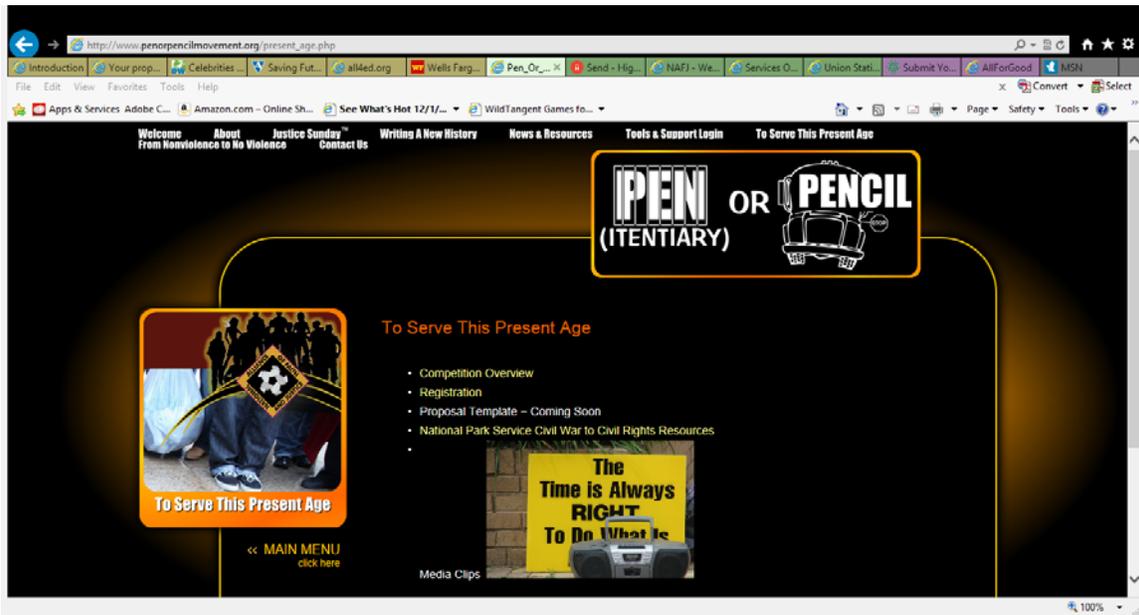


## How Can You Join In This Initiative?

- Visit our website ([www.nafj.org](http://www.nafj.org)) and SIGN ON;
- Connect Service With A Service:
  - Whether on Justice Sunday™, your day of worship, or in conjunction with your commemorative event, host a mentor recruitment;
  - As a precursor to Black History Month and in support of the continuum, join with us and our partner, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History ([www.asalh.net](http://www.asalh.net)), in our campaign, “A Dollar Earned: A Lesson Learned” - Donate \$1 during Justice Sunday™ mentor recruitment efforts (a schedule of mentor recruitment activities will be posted on our website) or an extension of a commemorative concert, meal, or other event honoring Dr. King to purchase book or bring school supplies to enter.
  - **LIVE UNITED** . . . Use this opportunity to connect with your local United Way to establish cross sector leadership which can make community impact. [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org)
- Mentors:
  - Become part of the PEN OR PENCIL™ Movement, [www.penorpencilmovement.org](http://www.penorpencilmovement.org).
  - Encourage your school to enter the *To Serve This Present Age National Service Learning Competition*, [www.penorpencilmovement.org/present\\_age.php](http://www.penorpencilmovement.org/present_age.php)
  - Registration for the **2014 National Mentoring Summit**, January 30-31, 2014, is now open! If you're a mentoring researcher or practitioner, or work in the youth development field you don't want to miss this annual event where you can share effective and innovative practices, discuss new research and focus on professional development.
  - Financial institutions . . . step forward as mentoring partners for our PEN OR PENCIL™ stock market component. To learn more contact us at [specialprojects@nafj.org](mailto:specialprojects@nafj.org).
- Recognition
  - Recognize volunteers who serve. Visit the Corporation for National and Community Service at [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov).
  - Use National Mentoring Month to recognize mentors who have served in this capacity;

## Extended Opportunities

- Effective November 25, 2013, enter the **To Serve This Present Age National Service Learning Competition<sup>2</sup>** ([www.penorpencilmovement.org](http://www.penorpencilmovement.org))



There are many more ways to make this week meaningful.  
Share your ideas with us at [communications@nafj.org](mailto:communications@nafj.org)

PEN OR PENCIL National Recruitment Initiative

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