

THE BLACK PANTHER

Black Community News Service

25
cents

(GIs
FREE)



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1969

VOL. III NO. 22

PUBLISHED
WEEKLY

THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
BOX 2997, CUSTOM HOUSE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94125

ONECITY ONEBOOK

San Francisco Reads



San Francisco Public Library

FALL 2017

sfpl.org/onecityonebook

WELCOME

Dear Readers,

We are excited to announce our 13th annual One City One Book title, *Black against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party* by authors Joshua Bloom and Waldo E. Martin. The Bay Area is renowned for its activism of the 1960s which helped define the history and culture of our region.

Bold, engrossing, and richly detailed, *Black against Empire* explores the organizations' genesis, rise and decline—imparting important lessons for today's resistance movements.



Black against Empire is the winner of the American Book Award. The book has been banned by the California Department of Corrections.

Read the book and join us for book discussions, themed exhibits, author talks and many other events.



A blue ink signature of Luis Herrera.

City Librarian Luis Herrera

ABOUT THE BOOK

BLACK AGAINST EMPIRE: THE HISTORY AND POLITICS OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

This timely special edition, published by University of California Press on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party, features a new preface by the authors that places the Party in a contemporary political landscape, especially as it relates to Black Lives Matter and other struggles to fight police brutality against black communities.

In Oakland, California, in 1966, community college students Bobby Seale and Huey Newton armed themselves, began patrolling the police, and promised to stop police brutality within the Oakland community. Unlike the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and early 60s that called for full citizenship rights for blacks within the United States, the Black Panther Party rejected the legitimacy of the U.S. government and positioned itself as part of a global struggle against American imperialism. In the face of intense repression, the Party flourished, becoming the center of a revolutionary movement with offices in 68 U.S. cities and powerful allies around the world.

Black against Empire is the first comprehensive overview and analysis of the history and politics of the Black Panther Party. The authors analyze key political questions, such as why so many young black people across the country risked their lives for the revolution, why the Party grew most rapidly during the height of repression, and why allies abandoned the Party at its peak of influence. This book cuts through the mythology and obfuscation, revealing the political dynamics that drove the explosive growth of this revolutionary movement and its disastrous unraveling. Informed by 12 years of meticulous archival research, as well as familiarity with most of the former Party leadership and many rank-and-file members, this book is the definitive history of one of the greatest challenges ever posed to American state power.



#onecityonebook @sfpubliclibrary #sfpubliclibrary

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Joshua Bloom is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh. He studies the dynamics of insurgent practice and social transformation. He is the co-editor of *Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy*.

Waldo E. Martin, Jr., is the Alexander F. and May T. Morrison Professor of History and Citizenship at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *No Coward Soldiers: Black Cultural Politics in Postwar America*, *Brown v. Board of Education: A Brief History with Documents*, and *The Mind of Frederick Douglass*.



SPECIAL EVENT

Author Talk: The Irrepressible Politics of the Black Panther Party

**Sunday, October 29
1 p.m.**

Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St.

Join authors Joshua Bloom and Waldo Martin in conversation with journalist "Davey D" Cook as they discuss *Black against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party*.

EVENTS

Free Breakfasts/

Free Lives

50 Years of Social Activism
in the Black Community

**Thursday, September 28
6 p.m.**

Main Library, Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin St., Lower Level

In partnership with the New Conservatory Theatre Center and its world premier of *This Bitter Earth*, join us for a discussion about the intersections between the Black Panther Party and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Blacks, Blues, Black!
Film screening

**Wednesday, October 4
6 p.m.**

Main Library, Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin St., Lower Level

Join the San Francisco History Center for the screening of Dr. Maya Angelou's 1968 series, *Blacks, Blues, Black!* which examines the influence of African American culture on modern American society.

Bicycle Tour

with bike collective,
Red Bike and Green

**Saturday, October 7
1 p.m.**

Meet at Defermery Park
in Oakland

Ride your bike to tour sites
of importance to the Black
Panther Party.



Hands on History
All Power to the People

**Tuesdays, October 10 & 24
6 p.m.**

Main Library, SF History Center
100 Larkin St., 6th Floor

Be part of an experience that brings San Francisco revolution and resistance history to your fingertips. Join us for a close-up show-and-tell of San Francisco history through original manuscripts, newspapers, and photographs which document Black Panther Party and San Francisco's legacy of resistance. Space limited to 30.



#onecityonebook @sfpubliclibrary #sfpubliclibrary

EVENTS

Litquake Presents

***Black against Empire:
The History and Politics
of the Black Panther Party***

**Tuesday, October 10
7 p.m.**

American Bookbinders Museum
355 Clementine St., San Francisco
Admission: free

Co-author Waldo E. Martin in
conversation with Oakland-based
writer and artist, D. Scot Miller.
Co-presented by Friends of the
San Francisco Public Library



The Defender

**Film Screening and Talk Back
with Jeff Adachi and the Press**

**Saturday, October 21
1 p.m.**

Main Library, Koret Auditorium,
100 Larkin St., Lower Level

An insightful documentary
focuses on San Francisco Public
Defender Jeff Adachi as he and
his team take on a high-profile
case which suggests black-crime
bias in ostensibly liberal San
Francisco.

Related Displays

A Slice of History
Government Documents
of the Founding of the
Black Panther Party

Through November 2
Main Library, 5th Floor Lobby,
100 Larkin St.

**The Black Panther Party
in Print**

Coverage from 1968-1980

Through November 2
Main Library, near 5th Floor
Paging Desk, 100 Larkin St.

EVENTS

Art and Activism Exhibit

October – November

Main Library, 4th Floor Rotunda
& Grove Street exhibit space
100 Larkin St.

*Artwork of Emory Douglas,
Melanie Cervantes and
Faviana Rodriguiz*

Using bold colors and high contrast images, these artists' works reflect both the local and global community and their resistance in a struggle to create a new world.



Related program

Emory Douglas: Art and Activism Panel discussion

**Sunday, October 22
1 p.m.**

Main Library, Koret Auditorium,
100 Larkin St., Lower Level

Emory Douglas, the Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party, who created some of the most iconic images of Black Power, in conversation with other artists discussing the intersection of art and activism.



#onecityonebook @sfpubliclibrary #sfpubliclibrary

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Thursday, August 31
4 p.m.

Bernal Heights Branch,
500 Cortland Ave.
(415) 355-2810

Monday, September 11
4 p.m.

Western Addition Branch,
1550 Scott St.
(415) 355-5727

Wednesday, September 27
6:30 p.m.

Mission Bay Branch,
960 Fourth St.
(415) 355-2838

Saturday, October 14
10:30 a.m.

Main Library, Library for the Blind
& Print Disabled,
100 Larkin St.
(415) 557-4253

FILMS

Thursdays at Noon

Main Library, Koret Auditorium
100 Larkin St., Lower Level



October 12

Free Angela and All Political Prisoners
(NR, 102 min., 2012)

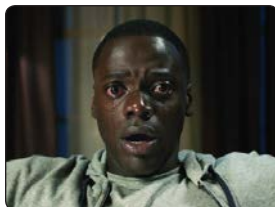
A documentary that chronicles the life of young college professor Angela Davis, and how her social activism implicates her in a botched kidnapping attempt that ends with a shootout, four dead, and her name on the FBI's 10 most wanted list.

October 19

Get Out

(R, 104 min., 2017)

A young African American man meets his white girlfriend's parents during a weekend in their secluded estate in the woods, but before long, the friendly and polite ambience gives way to a nightmare.



FILMS

October 26

Negros with Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power

(NR, 67 min., 2004)

Rob Williams was an African-American living in Monroe, North Carolina in the 1950s and 1960s. Living with injustice and oppression, many African-Americans advocated a non-violent resistance.

Williams took a different tack, urging the oppressed to take up arms.



November 2

Revolution 67

(NR, 90 min., 2007)

An illuminating account of the six-day Newark, N.J. outbreak on July 12, 1967. The film reveals how the disturbance began as spontaneous revolts against poverty and police brutality and ended as fateful milestones in America's struggles over race and economic justice.



November 9

The Black Press: Soldiers without Swords

(NR, 86 min., 1999)

An engaging historical account that tells the story of the pioneering men and women of the Black press who gave voice to Black America.



November 16

Good Hair

(PG-13, 96 min., 2009)

Prompted by a question from his young daughter, comic Chris Rock sets out to explore the importance of hair in black culture.



#onecityonebook @sfpubliclibrary #sfpubliclibrary

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 How did the party's hierarchical structure affect its dynamics and its ultimate impact?

2 What drew thousands of new recruits to the Black Panther Party's message of violent revolution in an era otherwise marked by the peaceful protests of the civil-rights movement?

3 In an iconic photo that was displayed in most Black Panther Party offices, Huey P. Newton is depicted with an ironclad grip on a rifle. What do you see as the difference between the Black Panthers' perspective on gun rights and that of the modern-day National Rifle Association?



4 How did government policies like defamation, espionage, and the embedding of provocateurs affect the party's momentum?

5 One of the central arguments in *Black against Empire* is that what lay behind the Black Panther Party's growth and influence, what made them synonymous with the Black Power Movement rather than the many other contemporary black nationalist organizations, was their ability to form alliances and coalitions—namely with moderate, more establishment black organizations, white student leftists, sympathetic revolutionary governments abroad and Latino, Native American and Asian radical groups in the U.S. How difficult was it to maintain and balance such alliances, to keep people within the party on board and to avoid being co-opted by less militant groups? What, if any, prospects do you see for any similar alliances being formed for contemporary revolutionary politics in urban America?

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6 The rise of the Black Panther Party coincided with some of the largest urban uprisings in US history: Watts in 1965 and Detroit, Newark, etc. in 1967. In the last two years we have seen similar rebellions in Ferguson, Baltimore and elsewhere. In many cases in both the 60s and today, the spark has been a police murder or assault on a black person. What parallels do you see between these periods?

7 The *Black Panther*, the Party's newspaper, played a central role in the movement. It provided information of relevance about local, national and international struggles. It was also used as a powerful propaganda tool against the state and for internal discipline within the Party increasingly for its announcements of Party members being purged. Its circulation reached 150,000. Discuss the impact and effect of a media tool controlled by the Party. What are the parallels to the media of today?



8 The sheer extent of COINTEL-PRO infiltration, agent provocateurs and state-sanctioned murder of Panthers only became known years after the Party's demise, though the campaign of vilification and repression by the US government was clear to Panthers at the time. Today in the U.K., as in the U.S., the state is widening its conceptions of 'extremists' and 'terrorists', continuing to criminalize those who organize against state oppression. How did the Panthers cope with the widespread propaganda offensive against them? To what extent did heavy state repression galvanize support for the party and was it state infiltration that was more damaging? What lessons can contemporary movements learn from state interference with the Party?



BLACK PANTHER PARTY

TEN POINT PLATFORM & PROGRAM

October 1966

WHAT WE WANT/WHAT WE BELIEVE

WE WANT freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.

WE WANT full employment for our people.

WE WANT an end to the robbery by the CAPITALIST of our Black Community.

WE WANT decent housing, fit for the shelter of human beings.

WE WANT education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society.

WE WANT all black men to be exempt from military service.

WE WANT an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of black people.

WE WANT freedom for all black men held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails.

WE WANT all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities, as defined by the Constitution of the United States.

WE WANT land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. And as our major political objective, a United Nations supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their national destiny.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES PLATFORM 2016

WE DEMAND an end to the war against Black people. Since this country's inception there have been named and unnamed wars on our communities. We demand an end to the criminalization, incarceration, and killing of our people.

WE DEMAND reparations for past and continuing harms.

WE DEMAND investments in the education, health and safety of Black people, instead of investments in the criminalizing, caging, and harming of Black people.

WE DEMAND economic justice for all and a reconstruction of the economy to ensure Black communities have collective ownership, not merely access.

WE DEMAND a world where those most impacted in our communities control the laws, institutions, and policies that are meant to serve us—from our schools to our local budgets, economies, police departments, and our land

WE DEMAND independent Black political power and Black self-determination in all areas of society. We envision a remaking of the current U.S. political system in order to create a real democracy where Black people and all marginalized people can effectively exercise full political power.



#onecityonebook @sfpubliclibrary #sfpubliclibrary

SUGGESTED READS

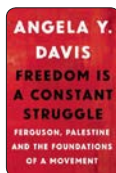


The Revolution Has Come: Black Power, Gender, and the Black Panther Party in Oakland

by Robyn C. Spencer

Freedom Is a Constant Struggle

by Angela Davis

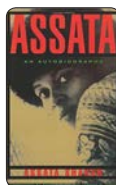


Black Panther: The Revolutionary Art of Emory Douglas

by Emory Douglas

Assata: An Autobiography

by Assata Shakur

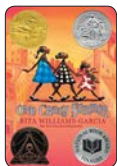
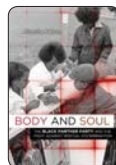


Party Music: The Inside Story of the Black Panthers' Band and How Black Power Transformed Soul Music

by Rickey Vincent

Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination

by Alondra Nelson



One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williams-Garcia

SUGGESTED MUSIC



The Revolution Will Not Be Televised
Gil Scott-Heron



A Song for Assata
Common



To Be Young, Gifted and Black
Nina Simone



The Dreamers
Anderson .Paak



Formation
Beyoncé



Legend Has It
Run the Jewels



Freetown Sound
Blood Orange

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PROGRAM PARTNERS



African
American
Studies Program



2017 SELECTION COMMITTEE

Calvin Crosby, Executive Director, NCIBA

Kevin Hunsanger, Co-Owner of Green Apple Books

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community, Programs and Partnerships, SFPL

Naomi Jelks, Adult Engagement Coordinator, SFPL

Laura Lent, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, SFPL

Byron Spooner, Literary Director, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library



#onecityonebook @sfpubliclibrary #sfpubliclibrary



San Francisco Public Library

FRIENDS *of the*
SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



#onecityonebook
@sfpubliclibrary
#sfpubliclibrary

**ONECITY
ONEBOOK**

San Francisco Reads

FALL 2017
sfpl.org/onecityonebook