

*History is our mission ...  
To illuminate and preserve.*

History Museum of Mobile  
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum  
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé  
150 South Royal Street



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Thursday, April 11, 2013

## **HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE TO SPONSOR READING OF MLK, JR.'S 'LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL'**

The History Museum of Mobile will sponsor a public reading of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" on April 17 at 11 a.m. in the Museum auditorium.

The reading will happen before a special noontime Learning Lunch titled, "Martin Luther King, Spring Hill College, and the Letter from Birmingham Jail."

April marks the 50th anniversary of the letter King wrote while incarcerated in Birmingham, and the public reading is part of a global initiative by the Birmingham Public Library to read King's letter in public venues all over the world.

King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" remains one of the most evocative documents from the modern civil rights era. Begun as a rebuttal to the advice of several white religious leaders in Birmingham, who had publicly urged King to adopt a more peaceable and gradual approach in the city's demonstrations, the letter has endured as one of the best examples of protest literature in the 20th century.

Fifteen readers of various backgrounds will read aloud parts of the letter. During a portion of the reading, an interpreter will recite parts of the letter in Spanish. An American Sign Language instructor will sign a portion of the letter, as well.

The list of letter-readers includes (in order of appearance):

**Beverly Cooper**, Mobile United

**Olivia Garcia**, student, Spring Hill College

**The Hon. Frederick Douglas Richardson**, Mobile City Councilman, District 1

**Frank Barregen**, Coastal Coalition for Immigrant Justice

**Ricardo A. Woods**, Attorney, Burr-Forman

**John Robb**, Raymond James Financial Services, with **Mirella Chavez**, International Society,  
University of South Alabama

**Chandra Brown**, President, Friends of the Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage  
Trail

**Rob Gray**, Ph.D, Innovation in Learning Center, University of South Alabama

**Domiyana McKinney**, 10th Grade, Davidson High School

**Karlos Finley**, Attorney, Boetler, Finley & Wolfe

**Gentry Holbert**, Director of Library and Information Resource Services, Spring Hill College

**Rev. Jim Flowers**, Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church

**Katrina Kennedy**, Secretary, Department of Foreign Languages, University of South Alabama,  
with **Tabitha Venable**, American Sign Language Instructor  
**Wes Burton**, Education Floor Manager, Gulf Coast Exploreum and Science Center  
**Deborah Rankins**, Assistant Director of Library Services, Alabama Southern Community  
College

The special Learning Lunch, which will begin at noon that day, will feature four speakers in a roundtable discussion about Spring Hill College's significance in King's letter:

**Tom Ward**, Ph. D, Spring Hill College  
**Carol Ellis**, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of  
South Alabama  
**Kathleen Orange**, The Foley Community Service Center, Spring Hill College  
**Scotty E. Kirkland**, History Museum of Mobile

No RSVP is required for either of the events that day, and admission is free to the public. Those attending the noon Learning Lunch are encouraged to bring their sack lunch and enjoy complimentary beverages.

For more information, contact Museum Relations Officer Daniela Werner at (251) 208-7652 or [museumrelations@cityofmobile.org](mailto:museumrelations@cityofmobile.org).

**HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE:** Located in the Old City Hall/ Southern Market at 111 South Royal Street in downtown Mobile, the History Museum of Mobile documents the 300-year history of Mobile and the surrounding region. The History Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. For more information, call (251) 208-7508.

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