Taylor Branch - February 8
America in the King Years - The Trilogy

At Canaan's Edge concludes America in the King Years, a three-volume history that will endure as a masterpiece of storytelling on American race, violence, and democracy. Pulitzer Prize-winner and best-selling author Taylor Branch makes clear in this magisterial account of the civil rights movement that Martin Luther King, Jr. earned a place next to James Madison and Abraham Lincoln in the pantheon of American history. Branch will speak about his book on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the KAM Israel Isaiah Temple, 5039 S. Greenwood Blvd. in Hyde Park.

"At Canaan's Edge" reminds us that Martin Luther King's challenge to America to "rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed" remains a powerful vision in a troubled world...

Jonathan Alter  Newsweek

In At Canaan's Edge, King and his movement stand at the zenith of America's defining story, one decade into an epic struggle for the promises of democracy. Branch opens with the authorities' violent suppression of a voting-rights march in Alabama on March 7, 1965. The quest to cross Selma's Edmund Pettis Bridge engages the conscience of the world, strains the civil rights coalition, and embroils King in negotiations with all three branches of the U.S. government.

Join Chicago's broad civil rights community on February 8 to learn from our history and launch a contemporary conversation on how to build a new movement to bring justice to our world today. This event is sponsored by the Chicago Freedom Movement, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, and the Community Renewal Society. Please call 312-915-8602 or visit www.jcua.org.

Chicago Freedom Movement and Hip Hop Convention Join Forces
Movement Explosion Week July 19-25 - Mark Your Calendar!

The movement continues. In recognition of the urgent need for a revitalized and intergenerational economic and social agenda, the Chicago Freedom Movement (CFM) and the National Hip Hop Convention (NHHPC) are teaming up to deliver a dynamic week of education and socially-conscious entertainment aimed at inspiring greater activism on the critical issues of the day.

"The NHHCP/CFM collaboration is a no brainer, an example of the Hip Hop and Civil Rights generations working together to bring evolutionary change to our communities." T.J. Crawford, Chair, 2006 National Hip Hop Political Convention

The CFM will host its 40th Commemoration July 23-25 at the Harold Washington Cultural Center, 47th and King Drive. Chicago State University will host the NHHPC July 19-23. The two groups are collaborating on a Freedom School for young people to build organizing skills. The groups are also planning an intergenerational Living Legends concert. Watch for a large-scale social action or campaign to emerge as part of the combined effort. For more information, visit www.cfm40.org and www.hiphopconvention.org
Thank You, Coretta

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. remembers Coretta Scott King

"I am deeply saddened by the death of the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement, Coretta Scott King. I knew and admired Mrs. King for her commitment to her husband and family, as well as to the civil rights movement and the philosophy of non-violence as a way of bringing peace and justice to our world.

As a young woman, Coretta Scott King, who lived twice as long as her husband, became a human rights leader in her own right. With Dr. King traveling extensively, she assumed the primary responsibility for the daily chores of raising a family - but she was often with Dr. King on his marches and protests for equality, justice and peace. Dr. King counted Mrs. King among his key advisors.

Mrs. King's commitment to human rights and peace made her a strong opponent of the death penalty, which also led her to oppose the invasion of Iraq in 2003. She was an active advocate for women's rights, equality before the law for lesbians and gays, and she worked tirelessly to prevent HIV/AIDS."

Andrew Young Recalls Civil Rights Days

Former U N Ambassador Andrew Young brought to St. Sabina the March crowd to its feet on January 29th when he talked about the sacrifice and hard work that many Black women had contributed to the struggle during the civil rights movement.

"One day the women got tired of watching us men ride to the marches in cars while they had to walk by foot" Young said

"The women were working in the background organizing everyone if you want something to work you got to get women involved"

During his young adult life Andrew Young became interested in Gandhi's concept of non violent resistance as a tactic for social change. In the early 60’s he encouraged African Americans to register to vote in Alabama sometimes facing death threats while doing so. Young became a friend and ally of Dr Martin Luther King Jr's during this time. In he was named executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). There he organized many peaceful protests. Young became one of Dr King's principal lieutenants.

Obama’s First Year

American Prospect reviews Sen Obama’s first year and his plans for the future “Where I probably can make a unique contribution is in helping to bring people together and bridging what I call the ‘empathy deficit’ helping to explain the disparate factions in this country and to show them how we’re joined together helping bridge divides between black and white rich and poor even conservative and liberal “ www.prospect.org

Students Get Active

Milka schools are participating in an Issue to Action Program and Democracy School pilot project. Each school is working on a neighborhood or school problem and attempting to address their issue through policy changes and direct civic action. Some of the issues selected include youth violence and gangs obesity and school lunches teen pregnancy and preventing STDs. Students will present their projects at a Milka Civic Action fair on April th

The income gap between high-, middle- and low-income families in Illinois has grown dramatically over the past 20 years, leaving low-income families continuing to struggle to make ends meet, a new national report finds. "Pulling Apart," by the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute finds that in the early 1980s, the incomes of the wealthiest fifth of families in Illinois were 5.4 times greater than the incomes of the poorest families. By the early 2000s, that gap grew to a ratio of nearly seven to one.

Chris Mancini, of the bipartisan Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, adds this:

“The flaws in the Illinois tax system have resulted in the bottom 20 percent of families in the state paying nearly three times as much of their incomes in state and local taxes than the most affluent 1 percent.”

The full report is available at: http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/studies_pulling_apart_2006