

**MARYLAND
LYNCHING
MEMORIAL PROJECT**

*“We cannot heal the deep wounds inflicted during the era of racial terrorism until we **tell the truth** about it.”*

-- Bryan Stevenson
Founder and Executive Director
Equal Justice Initiative

August 2019

To the friends of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project (MD LMP):

Although Labor Day is still weeks away, the fall calendar is already filling with important events, many of which are detailed below. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for these meaningful occasions.

**HELP WANTED:
MD Lynching Truth & Reconciliation
Commission Seeks Four "Public"
Members**

History was made earlier this month when the **Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission** (MD LTRC) met for the very first time in Annapolis. (Click the image at right for news coverage of the Commission's inaugural meeting.)

One of the Commission's first responsibilities is to fill the four "public" slots

The Act creating the Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission (2019 HB 307) includes the requirement that the Commission shall include "**four members of the public**, nominated by the Commission and appointed by the Governor."

Pursuant to this requirement, the Commission is encouraging interested potential applicants for those positions to submit the following materials:

- a. **Statement of interest** outlining history and nature of applicant's involvement in issues of racial justice (2 pages maximum)
- b. **Current resume** or curriculum vitae
- c. **Valid email address** and phone number where applicant can be reached

Applicants should submit these materials **no later than Friday, September 6, 2019** to: MDLTRC@mdlynchingmemorial.org

Applicants should be aware of and able to fulfill the time commitment required to complete this work. The Commission plans to meet monthly in Annapolis and/or Baltimore, in addition to holding mandated regional hearings throughout the state. The Commission's final report is due on December 1, 2021 and its authorization expires on June 30, 2022.



Sherrilyn Ifill to Headline Public "Launch" for MD LTRC on September 12



Photo: naacpldf.org

We are honored to announce that noted civil rights attorney and author **Sherrilyn Ifill** will address the special public launch of the **Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission** on **Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7:00p** at the **University of Baltimore (UB) School of Law**, 1401 N. Charles Street in Baltimore.

The Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, in partnership with UB, is holding the launch to introduce the Commission to the public, review the history of lynching in Maryland, explain why the Commission is needed and offer an opportunity for interested citizens to provide input to help

guide the subsequent work of the Commission.

Ms. Ifill is President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the author of two seminal contributions directly relevant to the work of this Commission:

- [“Creating a Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Lynching”](#), an article that appeared in the journal, *Law & Inequality* in 2003, and;
- *On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century*. First published in 2007, the book reviews the history and effects of racial terror lynching in the US, with a particular focus on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. It also provides an eloquent argument and guide for communities to undertake “projects of reconciliation”.

In addition to Ms. Ifill, the program will include presentations from **Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk** (21st District), the primary sponsor of the bill creating the Commission, and **Ms. Kelebogile Zvobgo**, a Zimbabwe-born political scientist whose research focuses on human rights and transitional justice. Ms. Zvobgo is a pre-doctoral fellow at the College of William & Mary Global Research Institute and the author of this recent article in the on-line journal, [The Conversation](#) about prospects and pitfalls facing the Maryland Commission.

Following the presentations, a panel discussion will allow audience members to ask questions of the panelists and Commissioners. The event will be **livestreamed** and remote viewers will be able submit comments and questions both before and during the live event.

Admission to the meeting is free, but tickets are required and can be reserved here:

**State's First EJI Historical Marker to
be Dedicated in Annapolis on
September 7, 2019**

At 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 7th, a historical marker will be unveiled on Calvert Street in Annapolis (across from the Arundel Center) as part of the **Equal Justice Initiative's Lynching Marker Project**. The location is near the site where Henry Davis was lynched in 1906.

The marker will acknowledge the lynching of at least five black men in Anne Arundel County and the racial terrorizing of many more. In an effort to foster remembrance, reconciliation, and education about these painful events, **Connecting the Dots** (Anne Arundel County) has partnered with the **Equal Justice Initiative**, the **Maryland Lynching Memorial Project**, the **City of Annapolis**, **Anne Arundel County**, local elected officials and civil rights groups to bring the first historical marker to Maryland, acknowledging racial terror.

In addition to the marker unveiling, EJI will be announcing the winners of the **Racial Justice Essay Contest**.

Parking is available in the Whitmore Garage at 37 Clay Street. Consider bringing a lawn chair if you will require seating during the unveiling ceremony.

Following the dedication, Connecting the Dots and their partners will offer an open opportunity for the public to address the topic: "Who are we and where are we going as a Nation?" All are welcome.

The discussions will be facilitated by members **Coming to the Table** groups from Annapolis, Baltimore, Harford County, and Montgomery County and **The Conversation Starters**. The talks are open to the public and will be held at the **Asbury United Methodist Church**, 87 West Street, Annapolis.

The dedication of the marker is an **important milestone** for our state. **Please attend**, if you're able.

NEGRO LYNCHED AT ANNAPOLIS

Taken From Jail by Mob, Hanged
and Riddled With Bullets.

HE CONFESSED HIS CRIME

Little or No Resistance Was Offered
Mob When They Battered Down Jail
Door and Carried Off Their Victim.
Assembled at St. John's College.

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 22. — A mob numbering 25 or 30 men broke down the door of the Annapolis jail, took out Henry Davis, the negro who on last week criminally assaulted Mrs. John Reid (white), near Igleharts Sta-

The Daily News (Mt. Carmel, PA) - Dec. 22, 1906

**Delaware Lynching Memorial Marker
Stolen Weeks After Dedication**

On Sunday, June 23, more than 100 people gathered in **Prices Corner, DE** for the unveiling of an historical marker to commemorate the **1903 lynching of George White**. The laborer, who had been accused of murdering a white woman, was burned at the stake by a mob of white men. It is the only documented racial terror lynching in Delaware

Sadly, less than two weeks after it was dedicated, **the marker was stolen**.

Although a reward has been offered for its return, as of this writing the marker has not yet been recovered.



Photo: WBOC TV

Here is the complete text inscribed on the stolen plaque:

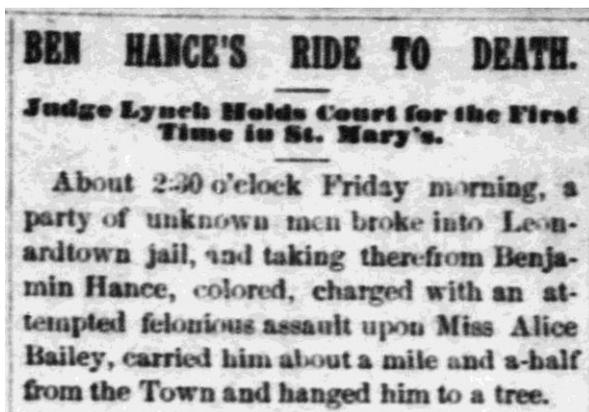
The Lynching of George White

On June 23, 1903, George White, a black farm laborer, was lynched near this site by a mob of white citizens. After being accused of murdering a white girl on June 16, Mr. White was taken to the New Castle County Workhouse to await trial. On June 21, a local minister urged at least 3,000 white residents to exact swift public vengeance. The next evening, a mob stormed the jail and carried Mr. White to Price's Corner. He was tortured and burned alive on June 23 in front of hundreds of spectators, who took pieces of his remains as souvenirs. No one was convicted for Mr. White's lynching, one of over 4000 racial terror lynchings from 1877 to 1950.

November Soil Collections Set for St. Mary's and Montgomery Counties

The Equal Justice Initiative recently informed coalitions in St. Mary's and Montgomery Counties that it has **approved the coalitions' proposals for soil collection** ceremonies to commemorate racial terror lynchings in those counties

St. Mary's County - Friday, November 1, 2019



St. Mary's Beacon - June 23, 1887

On Friday, November 1, 2019, Maryland Emancipation Day, the **Big Conversation Partnership of St. Mary's County on Dismantling Racism in Southern Maryland** will hold a soil collection ceremony to commemorate the 1887 lynching of **Benjamin Hance** in Leonardtown.

The ceremony is being held in partnership with the **Equal Justice Initiative** and will take place in the afternoon (time TBA) at:
Port of Leonardtown Winery
23190 Newtowne Neck Road
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Volunteers are welcome. Contact: Karen Stone at Karen.Stone@stmarysmd.com

Montgomery County - Sunday, November 3, 2019

A coalition of activists in Montgomery County has gotten the green light from the EJI to proceed with a soil collection ceremony at the Poolesville site of the lynching of George Peck on January 10, 1880. It is the first of three documented lynchings in the county.

The Montgomery County group is led by MD LMP board member **Tony Cohen** (pictured left side).

The soil collection committee is scheduling a planning meeting for early September.

If you're interested in attending that meeting, or in joining the Montgomery County coalition in another capacity, please contact Tony at:

menarefoundation@aol.com



To see what's happening in your county, visit the [County Reports](#) page on our website.

SAVE THE DATE!
"Lynching in Maryland"

Conference November 16, 2019 at Morgan State

The MD Lynching Memorial Project will hold its fall conference, "**Lynching in Maryland**" on **Saturday, November 16, 2019** from **9.30a to 12.30p** at the **Morgan State University Student Center**.

Details of the program will be announced soon, but the event will focus on the many ways the legacy of lynching continues to be felt in Maryland. The program will also include updates on the progress of the **Maryland Lynching Truth & Reconciliation Commission**. A **working session** for representatives of the various county coalitions will be held as well.

The 2019 conference will be co-sponsored by the **Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights in Education** and the **Lillie Carrol Jackson Civil Rights Museum**.

Last year's event attracted an overflow crowd for a remarkable day of "**remembrance, reflection and reckoning**." Read about it [HERE](#).

Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this extraordinary gathering:

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Volunteers Needed!!

HELP!! If you are interested and able to help with either or both of these upcoming MD LMP events, please send us a note by clicking [HERE](#) and put "Volunteer" at the top of your message.

Thank you!



"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."

-- Ida B. Wells

We can only continue our important work with your support.

Please help us turn the light of truth on this dark chapter in Maryland history by making a tax-deductible contribution to the **Maryland Lynching Memorial Project**.

Your donations help us:

- **develop and support community coalitions** and provide resources for local remembrance projects
- **create curricula**, media and other learning materials on the history of lynching in Maryland for secondary schools and colleges
- **organize and fund our annual conference**, "Lynching in Maryland"

Thank you for your support and your commitment to the truth.

Best,
Will

*Will Schwarz
President
Maryland Lynching Memorial Project*



Email not displaying correctly?

[View it in your browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)