

BOOK CLUB IN A BOX

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOST

BEFORE YOUR DISCUSSION

- Email an invitation to your book group members
- Let the group know where they can find the book & film
 - *Coming of Age in Mississippi* is available at most libraries and independent bookstores. King's English Bookshop in Salt Lake City is offering a 10% discount on this book
 - **Utah's Freedom Riders** is available to stream at pbsutah.org/freedomriders (30 min)
- Join the Facebook Group "Book Club in a Box Discussion Group" to find ideas, helpful links, etc.
- During your discussion:
 - Make PBS Utah materials in the box available to the group
 - Show clips from the film
 - Take photos to share with PBS Utah and Facebook group

AFTER YOUR DISCUSSION

- Share your photos and ideas with others on the Facebook Group
- Invite your book club members to join the Facebook Group via email

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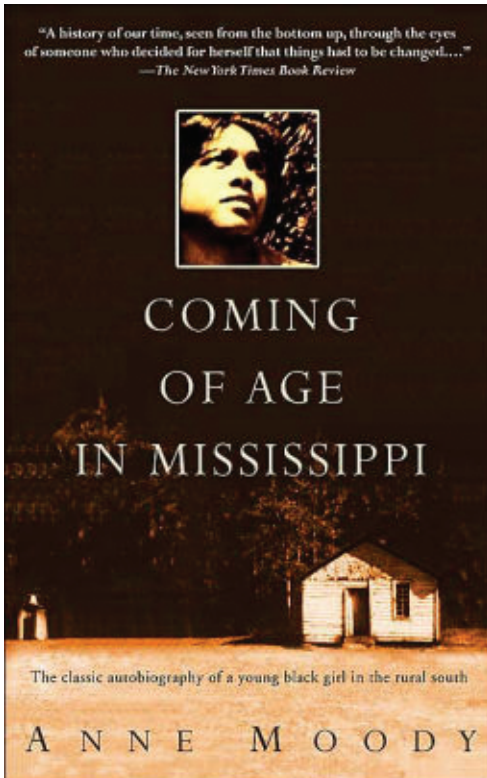
GET INVOLVED!

You chose this box because you are interested in these stories and issues. If you were inspired to learn more about civil rights in Utah, you can join those making a difference. Learn more by visiting these organizations:

- **Utah League of Women Voters:** lwwutah.org
- **NAACP Salt Lake City Branch (NAACP):** naacp-saltlakebranch.org
- **ACLU Utah:** acluutah.org
- **Equality Utah:** equalityutah.org
- **Utah Martin Luther King Commission:** multicultural.utah.gov
- **International Rescue Committee (IRC):** rescue.org

This project has received funding from Utah Humanities. Utah Humanities (UH) empowers groups and individuals to improve their communities through active engagement in the humanities.





COMING OF AGE IN MISISSISSIPPI

Coming of Age in Mississippi (1968) by Anne Moody, is an autobiography that tells Moody's moving and personal account of growing up African American, female, and poor, in rural Mississippi, in the mid-twentieth century, during the era of racial segregation. The autobiography is divided into four sections. It begins with Moody's childhood experiences of living in a dilapidated two-room wood shack on a sharecropper's farm to her college years at Tougaloo College, and later to her young adult years as an activist in the Civil Rights Movement. This widely-read classic autobiography reveals Moody's encounters with institutionalized race, gender, and class oppression. It unpacks her passionate fight for civil rights, social justice, and racial equality in the U.S. This book won numerous awards, such as the Brotherhood Award from the National Council of Christians and Jews, and the Best Book of the Year Award from the National Library Association, in 1969. It has been published in seven languages.

ANNE MOODY *Author*

Anne Moody was born Essie Mae Moody to Elmira and Fred Moody Sr., on September 15, 1940, in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. She was the oldest of eight children. By the early 1960s, Moody attended Tougaloo College on an academic scholarship. It was during this period, she became involved in various civil rights organizations, such as the Congress for Racial Equality, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. As an activist, Moody participated (along with the white activist Joan Trumpauer, among others), in the 1963 Woolworth's lunch counter sit-ins, to protest against the "Whites-only" racial segregation law in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1967, Moody married Austin Straus and they had one son named Sascha Straus.



UTAH'S FREEDOM RIDERS

"Discrimination knows no boundaries," says Nancy Green, PBS Utah producer of **Utah's Freedom Riders**. "It didn't just happen in the South, it happened here. Throughout the heart of the 20th Century, Utahns of all colors carried out the fight for civil rights, whether they were travelling to the South, or taking up the cause at home. They were united by a common vision of inclusion for all."

Produced in conjunction with **American Experience: Freedom Riders**, **Utah's Freedom Riders** highlights the contributions many Utahns have made toward creating a more just and equitable society. Throughout the heart of the 20th Century, Utahns of all colors carried out the fight for civil rights. The documentary tells the stories of Utahns involved in the Civil Rights Movement including Stephen Holbrook, Reverend France Davis, Mary Green, Darius Gray, and the late Archie Archuleta.

NANCY GREEN *Filmmaker, Producer*

PBS Utah Producer, Nancy Green, specializes in the production of documentaries for local, regional, and national PBS broadcast. Her work at PBS Utah spans 25 years, focusing on diverse topics including healthcare, the arts, history, and the outdoors. Recent films include *Battle Over Bears Ears*, *Homeless at the End*, *Search & Rescue*, and *The Utah Bucket List*.

Green has won numerous awards during the course of her career, including awards from the Rocky Mountain Emmys, Utah Society of Professional Journalists, Houston WorldFest, National CINE Golden Eagle, New York Film Festivals, and Women in Television & Film.

Before joining PBS Utah, Green served as Associate Producer for the national KUTV *Baby Your Baby Series*. She studied Neuropsychology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst prior to receiving her M.F.A. in Film and Media Arts from the University of Utah where she currently teaches documentary studies and heads the Documentary Studies Minor. Originally a native of New Jersey, Green was lured to Utah by the fresh powder. She lives in Salt Lake City with her musician/composer husband, Frank and her not so musical cats, Tink and Cal.

During the era of racial segregation in the United States (1896-1964), Blacks were subjected to a federal law that mandated the separation of Blacks from Whites, in public facilities, housing, education, public transportation, etc. Still, Blacks and other civil rights activists fought to dismantle racism in places of public accommodations.

It is in this socio-historical context that we learn about Anne Moody, in her award-winning autobiography, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*. As a poor Black female growing up in rural Mississippi during the era of racial segregation, Moody dedicated her life to fighting against segregation as a college student activist. Similarly, in PBS Utah's documentary, *Utah's Freedom Riders*, we encounter several Utahns, such as Reverend France A. Davis and the late Archie Archuletta, among others, who contributed to the struggle toward building a more just and equitable nation during the Civil Rights Movement. In both the memoir and film, discover how ordinary citizens' social actions helped transform U.S. politics and society, for the betterment of all.

- 1 In the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* U.S. Supreme Court decision, the court upheld Louisiana's state law that segregated Blacks and Whites. This law was nicknamed "Jim Crow." This federal decision made racial segregation the law in the entire nation, from 1896 to 1954, when the U.S. Supreme Court 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision overturned "Jim Crow."

This is the era in which Anne lived. White Mississippians sought to uphold their domination over African Americans through their interactions with one another as well as through state policies and practices. For example, Blacks were expected to use Mr., Mrs., or Miss, when addressing White people, including adolescents. Blacks and Whites had to use separate public bathrooms or drinking fountains and movie theaters, or they lived in racially segregated communities, etc.

Talk about the racial terror and violence that Anne describes. How did racial segregation affect the lives of Anne, her family and the African American community? How did she and her mother resist and/or conform to the "Jim Crow" laws?

- 2 After Anne's parents were separated, her relationship with her mother (Toosweet) reveals interesting mother-daughter dynamics. The relationship becomes increasingly tense the older Anne gets,

particularly when she questions the system of racial oppression. Discuss the ways in which Toosweet attempts to socialize Anne to conform to racial oppression and why. Why does she reject Toosweet's attempts and how did that affect their relationship? What does Anne's strong self-determination and self-valuation tell us about her?

- 3 Happy moments in Anne's life were very rare due to her encounters with racism, sexism, and classism. Discuss the happy moments that Anne experienced in her youth. Why did these moments bring her joy?
- 4 Toosweet was a hard-working woman with limited work skills. She took on low-skill jobs to ensure the survival of her children. What were Toosweet's fears, concerns, and dreams for her children? What gave Toosweet joy and hope for a better future?
- 5 In the summer of 1955, 14-year old Emmett Till, an African American child from Chicago, was lynched in Money, Mississippi. It is in this context that Anne develops an awareness of the political and social subordination of African Americans in this nation – especially in the South. How did Emmett Till's lynching affect Anne's awareness of the brutality of racial segregation? In Chapter 10, "High School" years, Anne writes, "Before Emmett Till's murder, I had known the fear of hunger, hell, and the devil. But now there was a new fear known to me—the fear of being

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- killed just because I was Black” (p. 125). What do you think of her emotional state of mind as it relates to Emmett Till’s death? In recent years, how has the national killings of Black youth such as Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, and Mike Brown by White police officers generated a national dialogue on race and civil and social justice and police reform?
- 6 When Anne attends Tougaloo College in Mississippi in the early 1960s, she becomes involved in various civil rights organizations. What were some of the civil disobedience tactics that Anne learned? Why was it important for her to engage in the fight for civil rights?
 - 7 At the end of the memoir, Anne is on a bus headed to Washington, D.C. for the famous 1963 “March on Washington,” along with other young civil rights activists. Anne questioned whether or not African Americans would ever gain political and economic equality and justice in this nation. Was she hopeful or pessimistic? Why or why not?
 - 8 The federally sanctioned racial segregation law was not only prevalent in the South, but western states such as Utah also implemented “Jim Crow” laws. In the film, **Utah’s Freedom Riders**, discuss the ways in which African Americans experienced racial segregation in the state of Utah. As a young child, how did the segregation laws impact Mary Green’s thoughts about racial injustices?
 - 9 In the film, **Utah’s Freedom Riders**, John Florez and Reverend France Davis explain how racism in the housing sector was very prevalent in Salt Lake City. What were the policies and practices that contributed to racial segregation laws in Utah? What were Reverend France Davis’ experiences with housing segregation?
 - 10 Utahns of various religious beliefs and racial/ethnic groups, such as Stephen Holbrook, committed themselves to the struggle for civil rights. Who were Utah’s civil rights activists? What role did they play in the civil rights movement? Why was it important for them to engage in the fight for civil rights? How did their activism give rise to civil and social justice changes in this society?
 - 11 Discuss what civil, human, and social justice causes you are involved in. Why have you committed yourself to fight for social justice? How has your fight contributed to social change?



DR. KAREN A. JOHNSON

Dr. Johnson is an award-winning Associate Professor of Education at the University of Utah, in the Department of Education, Culture, and Society. Previously, she taught African American Studies in the Division of Ethnic Studies, in the School for Cultural and Social Transformation, at the U. Her research interests are 19th Century African American women educators, African American intellectual history, social justice, and multicultural education. Johnson is the author of *Uplifting the Women and the Race: The Educational Philosophies and Social Activism of Anna Julia Cooper and Nannie Helen Burroughs*; and a co-editor, along with Abul Pitre and Kenneth L. Johnson, of *African American Women Educators: A Critical Examination of Their Pedagogies, Educational Ideas, and Activism, from the Nineteenth to the Mid-twentieth Century*. She received her doctorate degree in education from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1997. Prior to working as a university professor, Johnson worked as a K-12 public school teacher in New York, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. Dr. Johnson is currently a Utah Martin Luther King Commissioner (2014 to present).



SWEET POTATO PIE

From Sylvia's Soul Food Cookbook

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Unbaked 9-inch pie crust
- 2 ½ C Mashed cooked sweet potatoes
- 8 Tbsp (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 ½ C Sugar, or less, to taste
- 1 tsp Ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- 2 Large eggs
- 1 7-ounce can evaporated milk

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Beat the sweet potatoes and butter with an electric mixer until smooth. Add the sugar, nutmeg, and vanilla and continue beating until incorporated. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add milk slowly, beating continuously.
2. Transfer filling to cooled pie shell and smooth the top with a spoon. Bake until done in the center and lightly browned, about 40 minutes.
4. Sweeten with sugar, honey, or agave and add nuts or berries, if desired. Enjoy while it is warm!



MADEA'S BREAD PUDDING

From Big Mama's Old Black Pot Recipes

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 Eggs
- 2 C Sugar
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1 tsp Nutmeg
- 1 tsp Cinnamon
- 4 C Toasted bread (cubed)
- 1 cup Butter
- 4 C Milk
- 2 Tbsp Baking powder
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extract

Add raisins and fruit to pudding, if desired.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Toast bread (about 12 slices), Slice into cubes until you have 4 cups.
2. Blend butter and sugar together. Add eggs, bread, milk and other ingredients.
2. Bake at 350 degrees, until pudding becomes firm (about 45 min).

Pudding Sauce

In a small saucepan, mix 1-pint milk, 1 Tbsp cornstarch, 2 eggs and 1 cup sugar. Stir until mixture thickens. Add vanilla extract