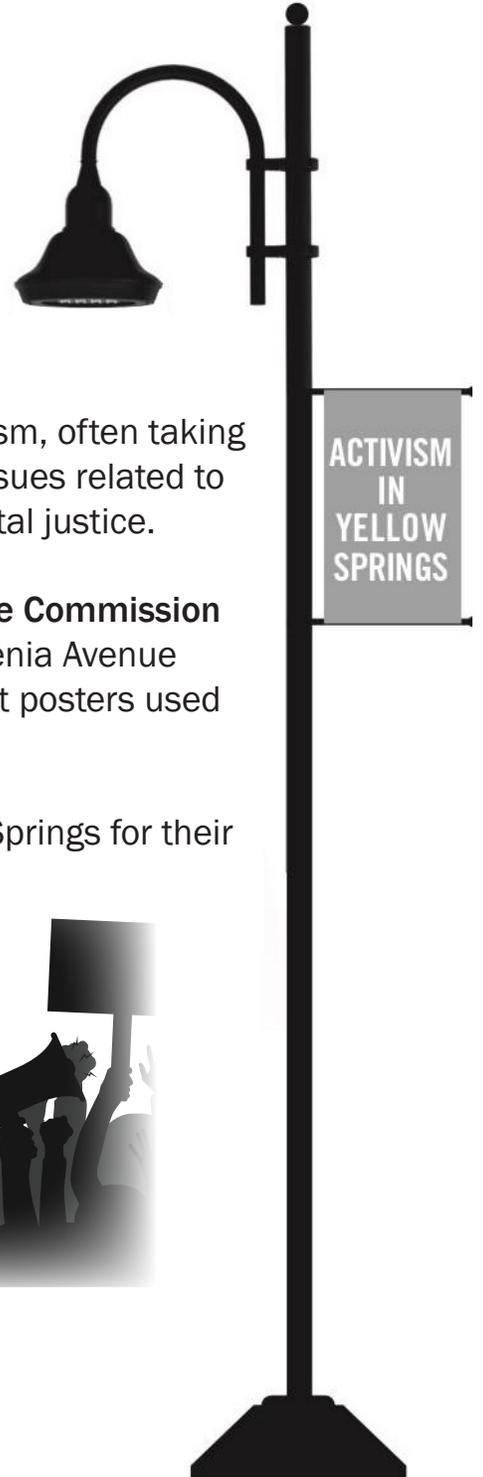


# PROTEST BANNER PROJECT 2021



For decades, residents of Yellow Springs have engaged in activism, often taking to the streets to demand social change in support of critical issues related to fighting racism, sexism, LGBTQ rights, and for environmental justice.

To honor this activist spirit, the **Yellow Springs Arts and Culture Commission** presents a lamppost banner series on Dayton Avenue and Xenia Avenue representing submissions from community residents of protest posters used during demonstrations over the years.

We wish to thank all the participants and the Village of Yellow Springs for their support of this project.

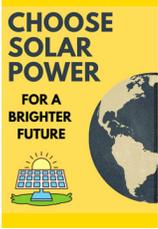


## SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Village of Yellow Springs  
National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center,  
Jim McKinnon, *Archivist*  
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Eve Diamond  
Clara-Lang Ezekiel  
Pat Fife  
Catherine Roma  
Matt Walker

Yellow Springs  
Arts and Culture Commission  
Cheryl Durgans, *Chair*  
Amy Wamsley, *Secretary*  
Nya Brevik | John Fleming  
Laurie Freeman | Catherine Roma  
Lisa Kreeger, *Council Representative*  
Brian Housh, *Council Alternate*

# XENIA AVENUE - EAST SIDE

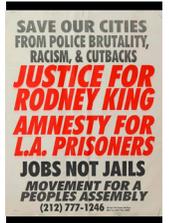


## Choose Solar Power

Texas-based company Vesper Energy has plans to build The Kingswood Solar Farm. If built this solar farm could be the largest East of the Mississippi spanning more than 1,200 acres in Miami Township, Xenia Township and Cedarville Township. Vesper Energy stated they plan to start the application process in the beginning of 2021. Many local citizens have been divided over this proposal for agricultural and financial reasons. This banner was submitted by **Pat Fife** who created this sign in support of the project.

## Rodney King

On March 3, 1991, King was beaten by LAPD officers. An uninvolved individual, George Holliday, filmed the incident from his nearby balcony. The footage showed an unarmed King on the ground being beaten after initially evading arrest. It was announced the four officers involved would be disciplined, Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates said: "We believe the officers used excessive force taking him into custody. In our review, we find that officers struck him with batons between fifty-three and fifty-six times." The LAPD initially charged King with "felony evading," but later dropped the charge. On his release, he spoke to reporters from his wheelchair: a broken right leg in a cast, his face badly cut and swollen, bruises on his body, and a burn area to his chest where he had been jolted with a 50,000-volt stun gun. He said he was scared for his life as they drew down on him. Four officers were eventually tried with three acquitted, and the jury failed to reach a verdict on one charge for the fourth. Within hours, the 1992 Los Angeles riots started lasting for 6 days. The federal government prosecuted a separate civil rights case, obtaining grand jury indictments of the four officers for violations of King's civil rights. Their trial in a federal district court ended with two of the officers being found guilty and sentenced to prison. The other two were acquitted of the charges. In a separate civil lawsuit in 1994, a jury found the city of Los Angeles liable and awarded King \$3.8 million in damages. Poster courtesy of the **Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**.

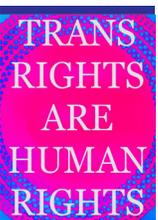


## Save Kids Not Guns

Created by 15 year old **Eve Diamond** who made the sign in March of 2018 for a March for Our Lives at Wright State University. I thought it was a powerful statement that reflected how I felt about the cause. I was very passionate about the movement because of how scared I was to go to school every day in my seventh grade year following all the news about school shootings. I also participated in the walk out protests at YSHS/MMS during the same year.

## African Liberation Day

Poster Courtesy of the **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**. African Freedom Day was founded during the first Conference of Independent African States in Ghana on April 15, 1958. The purpose of the day was to annually mark the liberation movement's progress and to symbolize the determination of the people of Africa to free themselves from foreign domination and exploitation. Between 1958 and 1963, 17 countries in Africa won their independence. On May 25, 1963, 31 African leaders convened a summit meeting to find the Organization of African Unity (OAU). They renamed Africa Freedom Day as "African Liberation Day" and changed its date to May 25. The founding date of the OAU is also referred to as "Africa Day". African Liberation Day has helped to raise political awareness in African communities across the world. It has also been a source of information about the struggles for liberation and development.



## Trans Rights Are Human Rights

Trans rights are human rights and its important that we keep this issue in the conversation and highly visible by **Matt Walker**. The term transgender describes people whose gender identity is different than the sex they were assigned at birth. Transgender people are no less deserving of rights and freedoms than anyone else however, transgender people face disproportionately higher rates of human rights discrimination than any other community.

# XENIA AVENUE - WEST SIDE



## Angela Davis

From the collection of **Catherine Roma**. Angela Davis has been a shero of mine for a long while. She's radical, an academic, a prison abolitionist, a lesbian and fierce feminist . This now famous Cuban silk screen says "Comite por la libertad de Angela Davis, Cuba." Guns belonging to Davis were used in an armed takeover of a courtroom where four people were killed. She was prosecuted for 3 felonies, including conspiracy to murder and held in jail for over a year. Several protests took place demanding her freedom. John Lennon and Yoko Ono contributed to the campaign with the song "Angela".

## We Still Have a Dream - Jobs, Peace, Freedom

This poster was used during on August 27, 1983 during the March on Washington. Usage allowed due to the courtesy of the **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**. The year 1983, which was the twentieth anniversary of the March on Washington and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech offered a chance to consider how far African Americans had come in those two decades, while also providing the opportunity to rally for new battles around race. A diverse coalition of 250,000 Americans gathered. More than 700 groups with a wide range of political and social agendas came to Washington demanding everything from government job programs to a nuclear freeze to gay rights. But their unifying theme, aside from the march's official call for "Jobs, Peace and Freedom," was unquestionably the goal of ousting President Reagan.



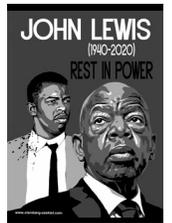
## Take the Toys From the Boys: Women Oppose the Nuclear Threat (WONT)

From the collection of **Catherine Roma**. While doing research in London for my dissertation I joined this march. The demonstrations began in the early 1980s at the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. Ancillary marches were held throughout England. Women protested against the decision by the British Government to store cruise missiles there at Greenham. The women soon decided protests were not enough and formed an encampment and blockade at the RAF base in Greenham that lasted for 19 years.



## John Lewis

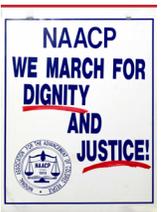
John Robert Lewis was an American politician, statesman, and civil rights activist and leader who served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020. He participated in the "Freedom Rides" of 1961, was arrested and beaten in Selma, Alabama fighting for voter rights of Black Americans, and on Sunday, March 7, 1965, in Selma, some 600 marchers lined up behind the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee Chair. This march was organized to go from Selma, Alabama to the State capital in Montgomery, 54 miles away, to protest the February 26 murder of Jimmy Lee Jackson by police and the denial of voting rights. The police informed the marchers to turn back, but instead they knelt and John Lewis along with many others was beaten and arrested. Lewis spent his life defending voter rights and humanitarian needs. In 2015, Lewis returned to Selma, Alabama for "America's Journey for Justice" alongside Presidents Obama and George W. Bush to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the incident upon the bridge. 5 years later atop the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Lewis is quoted in saying, "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America." Poster created by **Clara Lang Ezekiel**.



## NAACP We March for Dignity and Justice

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in 1909. For more than 106 years, members of the NAACP have been the nation's first responders to violence, bigotry, racism, injustice and social unrest. In March 2015, "America's Journey for Justice" to restore voting rights in America took place. The 860 mile journey begin in Alabama and ended in Washington, D.C to bring attention to the vulnerable communities who are victims of regressive voting rights tactics.

The march included a broad coalition of partners including the Democracy Initiative, Communications Workers of America, Common Cause, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Action Network, 1199 SEIU, The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Sierra Club, National Bar Association, and Black Women's Roundtable and National Congress of Black Women. This poster was courtesy of the **Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**.



# DAYTON STREET



## We Shall Overcome March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom August 28, 1963

This work was created by **Anna Arnold Hedgeman** (July 5, 1899 – January 17, 1990) . She was an African American civil rights leader, politician, educator, and writer. After being the executive director of Harry Truman’s 1948 presidential campaign, Hedgeman was rewarded with a federal appointment in the Health, Education, and Welfare Department in the president’s administration. In 1954, she became the first African American woman to hold a mayoral cabinet position in the history of New York City. She was the only woman among the organizers of the 1963 March on Washington. Hedgeman individually recruited 40,000 protesters to participate. In 1966 she became a co-founder of the National Organization for Women. Her work was donated for use courtesy of the **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**.

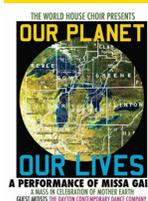
## Male Chauvinism and Imperialistic War Make Profits and Maim People

From the collection of **Catherine Roma**. Early poster linking the Vietnam War and Women’s Liberation from the **Womens Graphic Collective-Chicago Womens Liberation Union 1972**. The scope of women’s activism and mobilization included cultural heritage/legacy, attributes of care, patience and perseverance, not only their substantial participation on the battlefronts, but also campaigns focused on caring for troops. Their domestic roles as wives, daughters, or mothers were strong because they were the ones who provided patient and tenacious protection of the family and, at large, the defense of the nation.



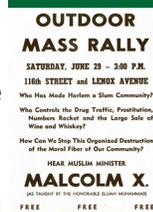
## Our Planet Our Lives

From the collection of **Catherine Roma**. The World House Choir sang Missa Gaia (Earth Mass) in September 2019 at the Antioch College’s Foundry Theatre. Participants included the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, local vocal soloists and 8 instrumentalists (was also performed at the Levitt in Dayton and in Springfield). The image you see of the planet is a 1850 map superimposed over the NASA image of the Great Lakes. The 1850 map includes the cities and counties where Missa Gaia was performed. Guest lecturer Dr. Chris Cuomo (University of Georgia) presented environmental programs: “Refusing Fatalism: Realistic Approaches to Achieving Climate Justice” at Antioch and “Good Allies in the Struggle for Climate Justice: Indigenous Sovereignty and Feminist Methods.” at Wright State University.



## Outdoor Mass Rally - Malcolm X

Courtesy of the **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center**. After several racial tragedies and setbacks in his youth, Malcolm Little changed his name to Malcolm X and later found the Islamic religion. It was in 1954, when Malcolm X was appointed the chief minister of Harlem’s Temple No. 7 by Elijah Muhammad. The next several years were filled with racial discrimination including the police beating of member Johnson Hinton where he was refused medical attention. Malcolm joined the contingent of Muslims at the 28th Precinct headquarters in Harlem, where he demanded Hinton receive medical attention. Media coverage of the Hinton incident brought national attention, and as a result the FBI now consider him a “key figure” meriting surveillance and increased harassment. This speech took place in Harlem on June 29, 1963. One year before Malcolm X’s pilgrimage to Mecca changing his worldview and fundamental understanding of race relations, religion, and the world at large. “And if I can die having brought any light, having exposed any meaningful truth that will help to destroy the racist cancer that is malignant in the body of America – then all of the credit is due to Allah. Only the mistakes have been mine.” Malcolm X



## Gegner’s Barber Shop Protest 1964

Hundreds of area students, residents and law enforcement officials jammed downtown Yellow Springs on Xenia Avenue during a chaotic demonstration against Gegner’s Barber Shop due to barber Lewis Gegner refusing to give African-Americans haircuts. Top photo on the banner from left, Arthur Morgan, Paul Graham, an unidentified man, Walter Anderson and Hardy Trolander (*partially hidden*) leading a march. Photos by **Axel Bahnsen** courtesy of **Antiochiana, Antioch College**.

