Civil rights activist speaks to SCSU

Nissa Biltmeyr

"You can't talk about the Civil Rights Movement and leave out the women," Judy Richardson, educator, activist and award-winning filmmaker, said to her audience Monday afternoon in "Will the Circle Be Unbroken: Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement." Richardson, who has claims to numerous articles and films, spoke about the Civil Rights Movement, its relevance today, and the importance of black women in its evolution.

Richardson spoke as part of Women's History Month. The series associate producer of the six-time Emmy winner and Academy Award-nominated film "Eyes on the Prize," Richardson focuses primarily on the Civil Rights Movement. "All of us did the Movement, not just Dr. King," Richardson said. "The values that drove the leaders through Dr. King and the lessons are a product of two things: the events of the organizations and the types of people who were part of it.

Richardson showed the connection between Rosa Parks, the women involved with sit-ins, the bus boycotts and other activities in efforts for the Civil Rights Movement. "What she learned in her work are lessons we should utilize in efforts for civil rights and justice," said Jane Olsen, Women's Center Director. Richardson told how Parks had been arrested prior to the story everyone knows today. When she was arrested on Thursday, Dec. 1, 1955, the women who were the leaders, she said, "told the Movement" that they were the leaders, too.

"The Movement" made thousands of leaflets telling people what happened. That Sunday, the preacher in the black lotus street was preaching the word that a boycott should happen. That Monday, the effort of countless women resulted in the beginning of the boycott.

"These women not only did it for themselves, walking 7.8 miles a day," Richardson said, "but for the people who would never know them, for better days."

"During the next 381 days of the strike, the bus company arrested 7,000 to 8,000 people a day. All this, Richardson pointed out, because women got together to say the "Movement" happen. "That day we didn't know how big King was going to be," Richardson said. "But they did a few things.

Richardson has a rich history in civil rights. A Terrytown, N.Y., native, she participated in activist organizations in college. A staff member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s, Richardson was also the office manager for the first campaign of Julian Bond for the Georgia House of Representatives. For five years Richardson has also been a busy compiling and editing an anthology of SNCC women's writings, "Freedom Plow," with a group of fellow SNCC women. The collection contains stories of the civil rights activism of over 50 women in the south during the freedom movement in the early 1960s. During the 1970s, Richardson was involved with several independent projects. She directed a study about racism in Black children's books for the Howard University School of Education.

In 1974 she was named the director of the Black Student Fund, a scholarship agency for black students who attend independent schools in the Washington, D.C. area.

By 1982, Richardson began her work with the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice in New York.

In 1994 Richardson co-produced Blackside's two-and-a-half hour documentary "Malcolm X: Make it Plain." The film originally aired on PBS "The American Experience" and won an Emmy and a Peabody Award. Richardson was also a producer of Blackside's pilot for "Hosea on the Horizon." For her work she received an Image Award for Vision and Excellence from Women in Film & Video New England.

Richardson only speaks during the months of February and March for Black History Month and Women's History Month, respectively, and she hopes that her audiences walk away having learned about the Civil Rights Movement. "All of us did the Movement," she said. "Not just Dr. King. Regular people started it, sustained it.

She said that this information is important, "because if we don't know that, we won't know how to do it again."

"Once you acknowledge the grassroots movements, all people can be activists, not just leaders, that becomes dangerous to the powers that be," Richardson said. "Her cost values are so important," Olsen said. "What she knows about African Americans not sitting at lunch counters, that was 40 years ago and students still can't fathom that."

Richardson hopes the women who listen also understand their importance to social causes. "We were the absolute foundation of the movement," she said. "It's to be historical, a vital, you can't talk about civil rights and leave out the women."
Celebrating National Women's History Month 2002

Judy Richardson:
"Will the Circle Be Broken: Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement"

Monday
March 25, 2002
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Kimberly Ritsche Auditorium,
St. Cloud State University
Reception to follow

Judy Richardson's accomplishments:
- Associate Producer of "Eyes on the Prize" series
- Co-producer of documentary Malcom X: Make It Plain
- Senior Producer with Northern Lights Productions
- Long time Civil Rights Activist
- Staff Member of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
- Collaborator with other SNCC women on the "Hands on the Freedom Plow"

For more information, contact the Women's Center at (320)255-4958.
March is Women's History Month

Here is a list of some of the videos available at the Women’s Center or Miller Center Library that honor contributions to women’s history.

**Women’s Center Library**

“After the Montreal Massacre” 27min. 14 women killed on college campus in Montreal, attack on women and feminists, media coverage and community response.

“The Fragile Promise of Choice” 57 min. Abortion in the U.S. today.

“From Danger to Dignity: the Fight for Safe Abortion” 57 min.

“Harriet Tubman” 30 min. Video Biography.

“Not for Ourselves Alone” Part I: “Revolution” 90 min. Part II: “Failure is Impossible” 120min. Events surrounding Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony and the Suffrage movement for women’s voting rights.

“Sojourner Truth” 30 min. Video Biography.


“Throw Like a Girl: A Revolution in Women’s Sports” 30 min. History of women’s sports in Minnesota.

“When Abortion Was Illegal: Untold Stories” 28 min. Poignant oral history that reveals physical, emotional and legal consequences when abortion was a criminal act.

**Miller Center Library**

“Adelante Mujeres” 30 min. Chronologically presented history of Mexican/American and Chicana women, produced by the National Women’s History Project.

“Amelia Earhart” 57 min. Chronicles her life and record-breaking flights, as a pioneer in aviation. PBS video.

“And I Still Rise” 30 min. History and experience of African-American slave women in white European society. Written and directed by Ngozi Onwurah.

“The Artist was a Woman: Women Artists, 1550-1950” 60 min. Rediscovery of 400 years of paintings by artists from the Renaissance to the mid twentieth century.


“Hearts and Hands” 64 min. Story of nineteenth century women told through their own diaries, letters, photographs and quilts.

“Margaret Sanger: A Public Nuisance” 28 min. Her life told through readings from interviews and writings, includes original sound recordings, film footage and photography.

“Nokomis: Voices of Anishinabe Grandmothers” 55 min. Documents Ojibwe women’s attempt to restore and preserve their Native American cultural heritage.


“Sacrifices and Shortages; A String of Pearls” 60 min. Women answer the call to duty in armed forces and in factories and shipyards during WWII.


“Silver Wings and Santiago Blue” 58 min. A testimonial tribute to courage and service of women pilots of WWII.

“Votes for Women” 26 min. Celebrates 72 years of struggle for the right to vote.

“Wild Women Don’t Have the Blues” 58 min. Historic performances of pioneering blues women.

“Women Who Made the Movies” 60 min. Reveals the work of little recognized American women film directors during 1896-1950’s.

“Women in Science” 42 min. Presents a brief history and the experiences of 6 women in science.

Compiled February 2001 * SCSU Women’s Center # 255-4958
# March 2002

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Actual date of Moslem holidays may vary based on appearance of moon. Jewish holidays begin at sundown the day before they are listed.</td>
<td><strong>NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</strong>&lt;br&gt;For a complete listing of events, call (320) 255-4958.</td>
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<td>Out Proud Week&lt;br&gt;Bienche Buceo, 1841-1888, African American legislator during Reconstruction&lt;br&gt;Ralph Ellison, 1914-1994, African American writer and novelist</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mohe Shivaratri—Shiva's Night (Hindu)</td>
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<td>Maha Shivaratri is a festival that celebrates Shiva, one of the main gods in Hinduism. It is observed on the night of the full moon during the month of Shravan.</td>
<td>Eid Ul-Achha (Modern)</td>
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<td>Women on Wednesday, Noon, Theatre, Atwood</td>
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<td>Indian Appropriations Act assuring right of federal government to manage American Indian affairs, 1871</td>
<td>Spring Break&lt;br&gt;Mohe Shivaratri (Hindu)</td>
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<td>St. Patrick's Day</td>
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<td>Spring Equinox&lt;br&gt;Women on Wednesday, Noon, Theatre, Atwood</td>
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<td>Benito Juarez's Birthday (Mexico)&lt;br&gt;Human Rights Day (S. Africa)&lt;br&gt;Naw Rez (Bahai)&lt;br&gt;M-Mentoring Luncheon, 11:45 p.m., Garvey Commons&lt;br&gt;Robert Smalls, 1829-1915, African American Civil War hero and legislator</td>
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<td>Bayard Rustin, 1912-1987, African American civil rights activist and pacifist</td>
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<td>Passover (Jewish)&lt;br&gt;Women on Wednesday, Noon, Theatre, Atwood&lt;br&gt;Holi (Hindu)&lt;br&gt;M-Mentoring Night, 7-10 p.m., Rec Center, Atwood&lt;br&gt;Robert Duncanwells, 1821-1972, African American landscap artist</td>
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<td>Good Friday (Christian)</td>
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**A**—American Indian Center, 654-5449  
**C**—Career Services, 255-2162  
**G**—GLBT Services, 654-5168  
**I**—International Studies, 255-4207  
**M**—Multicultural Student Services, 255-3003  
**U**—University Organizations, 255-3004  
**W**—Women's Center, 255-4958  

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