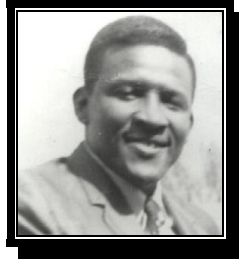


**BIRMINGHAM BLACK RADIO, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND CIVIL RIGHTS  
1936 - 1963**

**University and College History, Black Studies, Communications and Political  
Science Departments; High Schools and Libraries nationally**

**The Birmingham Black Radio Museum presents**



**“A RADIO HERO”**

A VIDEO RETROSPECTIVE WITH Q&A ON THE EARLY LIFE AND TIMES OF  
RADIO ANNOUNCER PAUL “TALL PAUL” WHITE  
AND HIS IMPACT ON THE BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

(LOCATED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK RADIO IN BIRMINGHAM  
FROM THE MID 1930'S THROUGH 1963)

**Birmingham radio announcer Paul “Tall Paul” White is the only Birmingham radio announcer mentioned by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his 1967 presentation to the American Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, and the only announcer to be interviewed by the FBI after the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church bombing.**

Bob Friedman, with over 25 years on the air, is Project Director and Founder of the Birmingham Black Radio Museum ([www.thebbm.org](http://www.thebbm.org)). He is a member of the Alabama Museum Association, has 30 years of research on the history of Birmingham Black radio, and has presented at many venues (see evaluations below) His programs have been funded by the City of Birmingham, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, Alabama Power Foundation, Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Daniel Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Alabama Department for Archives and History, as well as by campus and library budgets and his own time and money. In 2008 He received a Jefferson Award from the Jefferson County Historical Commission for his work in the field. In 2018, the Library of Congress Radio Preservation Taskforce invited the BBRM to become a ceremonial partner and in 2019, Friedman received one of two Community Engagement awards from the University of Alabama.

Presentation Details

1. A 50 minute video history of Black radio in Birmingham, tracing station and programming development, complete with photos, memorabilia, news clippings and audio clips, from the 1930's through 1963, including benchmarks on the early life and development of announcer Paul White (1936 - 2001), with testimony of colleagues and listeners.

2. Q&A

**A one-of-a-kind presentation. Never before seen or heard archival images and audio. Many “jumping off” points for students interested in historical research**

Cost: by donation or sliding scale

## Evaluations

Bob Friedman's presentation on Black-oriented Radio in Birmingham is a riveting account of a vital, yet too often overlooked, aspect of the city's heritage. Using an imaginative mix of sound, visuals and his own commentary, Bob brings to life the story of the deejays and stations that contributed so much to the life and culture of the Magic City. At the same time he offers important new insights into the struggle for civil rights in Birmingham, where radio played a vital role. This presentation is a great example of how lost histories can be recovered and cherished.

Dr. Brian Ward, Author, *Radio and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the South* (U of Florida Press)  
Professor in American Studies, Northumbria University. UK

Thank you Bob, for the outstanding job that you did with the "First Annual Tall Paul Awards for Courage In The Community". On March 30, 2013, your outstanding work with this project made me reflect back to 1963 when I was a student leader who was actually involved in the children's movement. It was so very good, to once again hear in Dr. King's own words how much he appreciated Paul "Tall Paul" White's involvement in the movement. I hope this is only the beginning, of showing the involvement of Black Radio and Paul White in our struggle for human rights, not only in 1963 but beyond. Again, Thank you and God Bless!

Rev. Gwendolyn C. Webb, 1963 Western-Olin children march leader  
(appeared in 2006 Oscar winning documentary, "Mighty Times-the Children March")

Tall Paul stood approximately 6'5" but to the Birmingham community, he stood as tall as Mt. Everest. He was a great inspiration to the young Black students during their fight for freedom, justice and equality. He would tell them if a man won't fight for his freedom, he doesn't deserve to be free. He also gave a lot of his time to Miles College and the churches of the Birmingham community. "A Radio Hero" is a presentation all people of good will should see.

Rev. Frank Dukes, Student Leader, Miles College 1962-63 Birmingham Selective Buying Campaign;  
Co-leader, 1963 Birmingham Easter Sunday protest march

The video biography of radio announcer "Tall Paul" White is as polished as any Ken Burns documentary. Bob's research is thorough, and substantiated by cross referencing verifiable, primary sources. Humorous anecdotes are carefully woven between facts as Bob encourages interaction with his audience to facilitate discussion. In the context in which I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Friedman, he has demonstrated leadership, collaborative abilities, and genuine compassion to deliver information to a wider audience in an engaging format.

Cheryl Hall, Assistant Professor of Theatre, University of Alabama at Birmingham

The City of Birmingham, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as host venue, are quite proud of all the efforts to document The Role of Black Radio in the Civil Rights Movement. The passion of Bob Friedman, initiator of the program - coupled with a lecture from Dr. Brian Ward, author of the seminal book, "Civil Rights and Black Radio," and concluded by many insights from actual foot soldiers - has authenticated the role of media pioneers and their clarion call to non-violent action in a democracy such as ours. The disc jockeys and the young folks who listened to their instruction to "unite and march", as presented over the radio waves during the Children's March in 1963, will always be a proud moment for this city, this region and our nation.

Renee Kemp-Rotan, Office of the Mayor/Special Projects, 50th Anniversary Programs

Good luck with this great program, Bob! I enjoyed it very much. It was obviously a labor of love....so much research & time went into it! Very professionally done, and the audience loved it. I will be sure and spread the word on this great program to my fellow librarians. Thanks so much for presenting it for us.

Leslie West Adult Services Librarian, Homewood Public Library, Homewood, Alabama

Bob Friedman's work in African American radio history in Birmingham during the 1950s and '60s is crucial to a fuller understanding of the civil rights movement. Radio personalities were an integral link in the movement, covertly providing essential information during the height of the movement in that city. Through their words and carefully selected songs, the deejays of black radio in Birmingham served as the sole source of information that could be disseminated in a hurry.

Robert Darden, Author, *People Get Ready: A New History of Black Gospel Music*, Bloomsbury Academic, Oct. 2005, Associate Professor, Journalism, Public Relations and New Media, Baylor University, Waco, TX

Dear Bob, I wanted to let you know how pleased and excited I was by the recent "The Role of Radio in the Struggle for Civil Rights in the South" program at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. When we began working together on the Birmingham Black Radio Museum project four years ago this month, this was exactly the kind of event I hoped would come to fruition as the public kick-off of the Museum. The collection of the Museum is diverse and exciting and can easily become the basis for future presentations and public displays. I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Danny P. Wallace, retired Professor and EBSCO Endowed Chair of Library Service,  
University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies

A deeply researched and fascinating look at the history of groundbreaking black radio in Birmingham. Friedman has compiled documentation, stories, and video interviews to shed light on a little known subject that encompasses the role of radio in the era of the Civil Rights Movement.

T.K. Thorne, author

*Noah's Wife and Last Chance for Justice: How Relentless Investigators Uncovered New Evidence in the Birmingham Church Bombing*

Just wanted to thank you for the fabulous presentation and power point. The students really loved it! (Prof. King's students are part of the BBRM's oral history transcription project)

Pamela Sterne King, retired, Assistant Professor of History; University of Alabama Birmingham, Director, Undergraduate Programs in History, Author, City of Birmingham's historic preservation ordinance; *The Amaranth Club of Birmingham, Alabama: Cultivating Women and Society*; *Fifty Years and Counting: A History of Operation New Birmingham (1957-2007)*; co-author, [\*No More Bull\*](#) (Connor) series for the *Weld for Birmingham* newspaper

Hi Bob-

Thank you again for joining us on campus for an informative presentation about Black Radio during the Civil Rights era. I've read a lot about Birmingham history, but I've never heard of "Tall Paul". Birmingham has so much history we're unaware of. It's important to preserve information about key figures in Birmingham for future generations. Thank you for helping us understand more about this important figure who contributed in a way that helped change the face of a nation.

Erica K. Brown, retired, Director of Multicultural Affairs, Birmingham-Southern College