

VOTING MATTERS
1964-2024

**Stories from Mississippi Freedom Summer
that resound today**

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Sixty years ago civil rights groups called for hundreds of volunteers to come to Mississippi “the citadel of white supremacy” in a massive peace corps-like operation to expand Black voter registration; organize a “Freedom Democratic Party;” set up freedom schools; and open community centers for adult literacy programs and health and legal assistance.

On Saturday, August 24, from 2-4 p.m., the Benicia Public Library will host Stories from Freedom Summer told by two Benicia residents.

- Linda Wright—educator, author, and teller of stories from history—will bring Fannie Lou Hamer’s reflections on the background and development of Freedom Summer.
- Mary Susan Gast—poet, human rights advocate, and theologian—will tell her personal story from Freedom Summer.

Q & A will follow, linking the struggles of 1964 to the realities and significance of voting in 2024.

Alice Fried, of Solano County League of Women Voters will serve as MC. She is the creator of the award-winning civics education program *Democracy Matters*.