



African American Lecture
**“THE ORIGINS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
IN WORLD WAR II”**

Guest Speaker: Kenneth R. Janken, Ph.D.
7:00 p.m. - FREE! - Thursday, May 21
Visitor Center Auditorium at Tryon Palace



When most Americans think of the Civil Rights Movement, we have in mind a span of time beginning with the 1954 Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which outlawed segregated education, or the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Most people believe the Civil Rights Movement culminated in the late 1960s through the early 1970s. We may have in mind vivid images of protesters sitting at lunch counters being assaulted by irate whites, or children being attacked by police dogs, or Dr. Martin Luther King delivering his, “*I have a dream speech.*” Through the power of the media Americans absorbed images of hopeful, disciplined, and dedicated young people shaping their destinies. But this drama of the mid-20th century emerged on a foundation of earlier struggles.

Dr. Janken will show how the modern civil rights movement is rooted in the era of World War II and the black freedom struggle for victory over fascism abroad, and racism and white supremacy at home.

Kenneth Janken, a professor of Afro-American studies in the UNC-Chapel Hill College of Arts and Sciences, teaches courses on the Civil Rights Movement, black thought, and black politics. His scholarship has been recognized both inside and outside the UNC-Chapel Hill community. He has been a fellow at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities. In 1997 he received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship for his biography “White: The Biography of Walter White, Mr. NAACP”. He was awarded a fellowship at the National Humanities Center in 2000-2001.