



Week of Remembrance: Juneteenth 2019

“Public memory, when met with compassionate action, offers us the opportunity to both dignify the terrorized and move towards the eradication of systems of terror.”
-Brittany T. Paschall, Founder, *We Remember Nashville*

Week of Remembrance is an opportunity for the collective Nashville community to engage in public memory. *We Remember Nashville* seeks not only to educate our community around the ongoing legacy of racial terror, but to do so in a way centers those most often affected by the violence of our present and past. The week begins with an educational forum discussing the power of memory and movement, followed by two marker installations and dedication ceremonies, a healing retreat offering communal care for those traumatized by the legacy of racial violence, and concluding with an interfaith service of lament and celebration. All events are free and open to the public. Additionally, event spaces are accessible to disabled persons, and locations are accessible by public transit. Register online today!

Educational Forum on Public Memory

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
Nashville Public Library
6:00pm

This informative event will feature our [EJI student essay contest](#) winners, youth spoken word artists, and an interactive panel discussing the topic, “We Remember: The Power of Memory and Movement”. [Register online.](#)

Marker Installation and Dedication

Wednesday, June 19, 2019
Woodland Street Bridge and 1st Avenue North
12:00pm

On Juneteenth, we will install the first phase of our public memory project with two historical markers downtown. The first marker is named for Henry Grizzard and Ephraim Grizzard, brothers who were violently hanged by white residents of Davidson and Sumner counties on April 24 and April 30, 1892. The second marker is named for David Jones and Jo Reed, victims of racial terror lynching pre-1877. [Register online.](#)

Healing Retreat

Thursday, June 20, 2019
St. Augustine's Chapel
6:00pm

This retreat will feature contemplative circles, movement chaplains, and other sacred offerings. The traumas of oppression, violence, and racial terror have a lasting impact on our bodies, minds, and spirits. This space is open to all in an effort to create a space of care, mutual respect, decompression, and healing. [Register online.](#)

Interfaith Service of Lament and Celebration

Sunday, June 23, 2019
First Baptist Church South Inglewood
3:00pm

We will conclude the week with an interfaith service of lament and celebration. We will worship with faith leaders from the Muslim, Jewish, Bahá'í, and Christian communities, and a host of community members for this moving service. All faith and non-faith traditions are welcome. [Register online.](#)

Note: All events are free and open to the public. Additionally, event spaces are accessible to disabled persons. Parking may be limited in certain locations. We strongly encourage carpooling or using public transportation.



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About the Honorees

David Jones was killed in the Nashville Public Square on Monday, March 25, 1872. He was accused of murdering a prominent local citizen early Sunday morning and was arrested Sunday afternoon and taken to the county jail to await trial. A few hours after arriving at the jail, a white mob forced themselves into the jail and took Mr. Jones. The mob carried him to the nearby Public Square, hung him from a lamp post, and shot him twice. [Learn more here.](#)

On Sunday, April 30, 1875, Jo Reed was shot and hanged on the suspension bridge where Woodland Street Bridge now stands. Mr. Reed was arrested earlier that morning, accused of shooting and killing a white police officer. While in jail, a large mob gathered outside. They stormed the jail and broke into Mr. Reed's cell, facing very little resistance from the guards. The mob took Mr. Reed to the nearby bridge, hung him over the side, and shot him twice before he dropped to the bank below and rolled into the water. [Learn more here.](#)

On April 24, 1892, five black men were arrested and accused of raping a woman in Goodlettsville. One of the men, Henry Grizzard, was seized by a mob soon after being questioned at the woman's house, and was carried a few miles away to Mansker's Creek. The mob crossed the creek to Sumner County and hanged Mr. Grizzard. They attempted to make him confess before he died, but he emphatically denied any wrongdoing. The crowd quickly dispersed after pinning a note to Mr. Grizzard's body warning "Death to the man that cuts this rope." Henry's brother Ephraim had also been arrested and he was taken to Nashville to await trial in jail. On April 30, 1892, a mob of over 1,000 people finally succeeded in entering the jail after two failed attempts. They used a sledgehammer to destroy the door to his cell and removed Mr. Grizzard. The mob dragged him to the Woodland Street Bridge, hung him from the side, and shot him over 50 times. [Learn more here.](#)

Biographies compiled by Jessica Reeves, Metropolitan Historical Commission Staff Member and *We Remember Nashville* History and Research Subcommittee Chair.

Organizational Partners

We Remember Nashville is proud to partner with several community sponsors in hosting our inaugural Week of Remembrance including (but not limited to):

- American Baptist College
- Metro Nashville Public Schools
- Metropolitan Historical Commission
- Tennessee State University
- The Deane Foundation
- The Equal Justice Initiative

About *We Remember Nashville*

The Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Community Remembrance Project Coalition ("*We Remember Nashville*") exists to promote community awareness, education, and public reckoning around racial terror in Nashville, TN (Davidson County) through partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative and local stakeholders. Led by an intergenerational, multi-gendered, interfaith core, *We Remember Nashville* tells the story of racial terror with dignity, truth, and resilience in order to move toward reconciliation.