

History Museum of Mobile
111 South Royal Street

Phoenix Fire Museum
203 South Claiborne Street

Historic Site at Fort Condé
150 South Royal Street



David Alsobrook, Director

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historymuseumofmobile.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 3, 2014

HISTORY MUSEUM OF MOBILE TO HOST BOOK EVENT WITH CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

The History Museum of Mobile will host an evening with civil rights activist, Maria Gitin, author of *This Bright Light of Ours: Stories from the Voting Rights Fight* on Thursday, March 13, 2014, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

Gitin, a national fundraising and diversity trainer for twenty-eight years, has participated in voter registration throughout the country for over four decades. Gitin will discuss her new book, published by the University of Alabama Press, which details through first-person accounts the contributions of ordinary people who formed the nonviolent army that won the fight for voting rights.

"Here at the History Museum we welcome this unique opportunity to host one of the courageous young foot-soldiers of the civil rights movement in Alabama," said David E. Alsobrook, PhD, Director of the History Museum of Mobile. "I feel that our patrons will be keenly interested in Ms. Gitin's reflections on her time in Wilcox County during that tumultuous era."

Combining memoir and oral history, the book fills a vital gap in civil rights history by focusing on the neglected Freedom Summer of 1965 when hundreds of college students joined forces with local black leaders to register thousands of new black voters in the rural South, part of an SCLC initiative called SCOPE.

"This is a must-read account of a less publicized aspect of the Southern civil rights movement, white volunteers risking life and limb to challenge white supremacy at its most brutal," said Julian Bond, Chairman Emeritus, NAACP.

Gitin was an idealistic nineteen-year-old college freshman from a small farming community north of San Francisco who felt called to action when she saw televised images of brutal attacks on peaceful demonstrators during Bloody Sunday, in Selma, Alabama. During her time in SCOPE, she was assigned to rural Wilcox County, where she worked registering voters.

Copies of *This Bright Light of Ours* will be available for purchase at the museum, beginning at 5:30. Gitin will read selections from her book beginning at 6:00, followed by a reception and book signing.

For more information about this event, contact Jacquelyn Kirkland, museum relations officer, at (251) 208-7652 or e-mail museumrelations@cityofmobile.org.

Located in the Old City Hall/ Southern Market at 111 S. Royal Street in downtown Mobile, the History Museum of Mobile documents the 300-year history of Mobile and the surrounding region. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Sunday

History is our mission ... to illuminate and preserve.

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from 1 p.m. -5 p.m. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students.

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