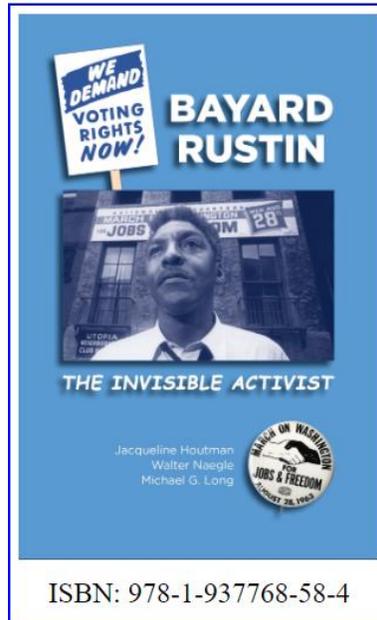


Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist

by Jacqueline Houtman, Walter Naegle, and Michael G. Long (Quaker Press 2014)

We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers. – Bayard Rustin



To many, the Civil Rights Movement brings to mind protests, marches, boycotts, and freedom rides. They often think of people like Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks. They seldom think of Bayard Rustin.

Raised by his Quaker grandmother to believe in the value of every human being, Bayard made trouble where ever he saw injustice. As a teenager, he was arrested for sitting in the *whites only* section of a theater. More arrests followed, for protesting against segregation, discrimination, and war. His belief in nonviolent action as a means for social change gave him a guiding vision for the Civil Rights Movement, which he used to mentor the young Martin Luther King, Jr. When A. Philip Randolph needed the best organizer on the planet, he turned to Bayard Rustin to bring 250,000 people to the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Illustrated with over sixty photos, this book is the product of a unique collaboration between three authors: Bayard's partner of ten years, a professor of religious studies, and a children's book author. Though he is largely ignored in history books, Bayard's ideas and actions will inspire today's young (and not-so-young) readers to be angelic troublemakers.

Honors for *Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist*

- Finalist Cybils Awards 2015 Young Adult Nonfiction category
- Selected by the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance project
- CCBC Choices 2105

Praise for Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist

Amy Vatne Bintliff, Award-winning Middle School Reading Teacher and author of *Re-engaging Disconnected Youth: Transformative Learning through Restorative and Social Justice Education*:

"I read *Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist* in one sitting. It is a beautifully crafted book about an activist who never quit despite facing immense discrimination. I taught the book in my 8th grade reading class and students were pulled in by the introduction. They understood the injustice associated with Rustin's identity and wanted to learn more. The text features, which include wonderful supporting details included in text boxes, pulled my struggling readers into the text, as did the photographs. This is a must read for any educator committed to the cause of social justice."

Becky Birtha, author of *Grandmama's Pride and Lucky Beans*:

"*Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist* introduces a significant figure and awesome hero in United States history. Throughout a lifetime of organizing and activism, Rustin defended civil rights, gay rights, and human rights. "To Bayard, it didn't matter which group was being discriminated against—all discrimination was wrong." In words perfect for young readers and many rare photographs, this fascinating biography tells Rustin's remarkable story as fearlessly and honestly as he lived his life. *Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist* is a book to be read and treasured by anyone who believes in freedom and equal rights for all. "

William P. Jones, author of *The March on Washington: Jobs, Freedom and the Forgotten History of Civil Rights*:

" This rich and accessible biography provides young people with a much needed introduction to Bayard Rustin, one of the most important and yet least known figures in the ongoing struggle for democracy and social justice in the United States."

Ann Angel, recipient of the 2011 Young Adult Library Services Association Excellence in Nonfiction Award for *Janis Joplin, Rise Up Singing*:

" Refusing to accept diminishment or divisions based upon race or gender, Bayard Rustin was a quiet yet controversial voice of the Civil Rights movement. This pacifist organized protests, promoted nonviolent action and traveled the world in his quest for human rights and justice for all."

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton:

" Bayard Rustin did not spend his life trying to fit in. Instead, Bayard's fascinating life story is the saga of one man's struggle to make the world fit his vision of justice."

Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund:

" I am so grateful this book will give a whole new generation the chance to learn about one of the most brilliant, strategic unsung heroes and most effective behind-the-scenes leaders of the Civil Rights Movement."