Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) was a leading activist in the American Civil Rights movement, initiating a 1947 Freedom Ride to challenge bus segregation, and organizing the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. An openly gay man, Rustin began advocating for gay and lesbian causes later in life, working to bring the AIDS crisis to the attention of the NAACP, and famously stating in the mid-1980s, “Twenty-five, 30 years ago, the barometer of human rights in the United States were black people … the barometer … is now those who consider themselves gay, homosexual, lesbian.”