

DEDICATION SERVICE
W.E.B. DU BOIS RIVER GARDEN
HOUSATONIC RIVER WALK



Saturday, September 28, 2002

Dedication service at 2:00 PM
First Congregational Church
251 Main Street, Great Barrington

The Housatonic River flows gently as the life stream of our town.
-- W.E.B. Du Bois, 1961

W.E.B. DU BOIS RIVER GARDEN

DEDICATION PROCEEDINGS

WELCOME

Rev. Charles Van Ausdall
Pastor, First Congregational Church
Rachel Fletcher
Founding Director, Housatonic River Walk
Rev. Esther Dozier
Pastor, Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

MUSICAL SELECTION

Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Price Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

SPEAKER

Dr. David Graham Du Bois
President and C.E.O., W.E.B. Du Bois Foundation, Inc.

COMMENTARY

Dr. Randolph Bromery
Former Chancellor, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Dr. Warren Perry
Assoc. Professor of Anthropology, Central Connecticut State University

BREAK

MUSICAL SELECTION

Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth Chorus
Joallen Forte, Director

COMMENTARY

Bernard A. Drew
Past President, Great Barrington Historical Society

Dr. Emmanuel Dongala
Professor of Chemistry and Francophone African Literature
Simon's Rock College of Bard

Ms. Elaine S. Gunn
 Former Teacher, Bryant Elementary School
 Speaking for Ms. Ruth D. Jones and Frederick W. Lord
 Members, Original W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Committee, 1968-69

The Jubilee School of Philadelphia

Dr. Homer (Skip) Meade
 Senior Area Director, National Evaluation Systems, Inc.

CLOSING REMARKS

Rachel Fletcher

MUSICAL SELECTION

Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
 Price Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Acknowledgements

Great Barrington-born William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868-1963) became one of the leading writers and civil rights activists of his generation. He taught at Wilberforce University, Atlanta University and University of Pennsylvania. He was founder and guiding force of *The Crisis*, the NAACP's journal, from 1910-1934. "From his student days at Fisk, Harvard and the University of Berlin to his editorship of the *Encyclopedia Africana* at age ninety, Du Bois produced a mountain of scholarship in sociology and history that stands as a monument for posterity," according to a brochure from the Du Bois Archives at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Du Bois often expressed his fondness for Great Barrington; his two children were born here and he often re-visited old haunts including the Burghardt homestead on Route 23 (now a National Historic Landmark) well into the 1950s.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

MONUMENT MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Kate Bradbury Olivia Cohen Aviva Cormier Nikole Delair Liza Gennari Sarah Hewatt
 Jenny Kain Jessica Lamont Joshua Rolf Allison Shepardson Rachel Shepardson Whitney Shook

SEARLES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Todd Covert's Sixth Grade Science Class
 Alanna Cardillo Caleb Davis Stephanie Fredsall Tyeesha Keele Fred Murnane Libby Panhorst Eva Ward

BERKSHIRE COUNTRY DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Johanna Blair Emma Broderick-Scarpa Debi Kirchner Lauren Markowitz Marisha Mitchell
 Jessica Ryan Travis Toole Dylan Widjionni Annika Wisswaesser

THE NEW NINTH GRADE AT THE GREAT BARRINGTON RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

Caitlin Blau Simon Brown Suzanne Fili Emma Franco-Toner Tavish Gallagher Zachary Goldman
 Emma Kiely Austen McQuaite Victoria Peck Samantha Stier Clara Wetmore Valentia Whitehead

JUBILEE SCHOOL OF PHILADELPHIA
 Jamilah Barnes Efia King Paige Lyle Aliyah Presseley-Qualls

Special thanks to Anthony Barnaba, Ellen Broderick, Danny Brown, Ann Condon, Nonie Crossnohere, Dana Cummings, Barbara and Graham Dean, Ruth Dinerman, Dennis Downing, Rev. Esther Dozier, Bernard A. Drew, Sue Efferin, Karl Finger, Peter and Camilla Flemming, Diane and Ken Fogarty, Jane Furey, Elaine Gunn, John Hadden, Ann Hanchett, Wendy Jensen, Ron Jones, Ruth D. Jones, Christine Kelly, Frederick Lord, Skip Meade, Bob Mills, Ray Murray, Shannon Murray, Ellen Murtagh, Elizabeth Neale, Jim O'Connell, Krista Palmer, James N. Parrish, Karin Passmore, Mark Pieropan, Scott Rote, Sharon Smith, Staveleigh House, Carla and Jenna Turner, Pastor Van, Alice Wislocki, Susan Witt, and Marianne Young.

Special thanks to the Alford Garden Club, Egremont Garden Club, Great Barrington Garden Club, Great Barrington Rotary Club, Thursday Morning Club, Berkshire Country Day School, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Rudolf Steiner School, Searles Middle School, and Undermountain Elementary School.

The River Walk River Garden was created by: Rich Atwood; Heather Cupo, Plant Euphoria; Monica Fadding, Marconica; Rob Hoogs, Foresight Land Services; Peter Jensen, Openspace Management; Jon Piasecki, Golden Bough; Cindy Roots; Keith Wilkinson, K.W. Konstruction; Riverways Programs; and River Walk's hundreds of volunteers.

The W.E.B. Du Bois dedication stone of Chester blue granite was created by Allen Williams, Chester Granite, Co.

Quotation by W.E.B. Du Bois, 1961, used with permission of the family of the late George P. Fitzpatrick. Program cover image courtesy of U.S. Postal Service, 1998.

The W.E.B. Du Bois dedication is a project of the Great Barrington Land Conservancy and Great Barrington Historical Society in conjunction with Upper Housatonic Valley Heritage Area and with support from the National Park Service.

Biographies of the Participants

REV. CHARLES VAN AUSDALL is Pastor of First Congregational Church, Great Barrington.

RACHEL FLETCHER, a Great Barrington resident for more than twenty years, is Founding Director of the town's Housatonic River Walk and Executive Director of Housatonic River Restoration.

REV. ESTHER DOZIER was born in Alabama and has lived in Great Barrington for more than thirty years. She has been Pastor of Clinton African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church since 1999. She was ordained a Deacon in 2000 and an Elder in 2001. She is married and the mother of two sons. She has three grandchildren.

DR. DAVID GRAHAM DU BOIS is the President and CEO of the W.E.B. Du Bois Foundation, Inc. The son of Shirley Graham Du Bois and adopted son of W.E.B. Du Bois, David Graham Du Bois is a journalist, activist and teacher. He spent eleven years in Egypt as a college lecturer, news editor of the Egyptian Gazette and editor at the Cairo-based Middle East Features Agency. In the 1970s he taught at the University of California, Berkeley and was editor-in-chief of the Black Panther weekly newspaper. More recently, he has taught journalism and African American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He works to keep the flame of W.E.B. Du Bois alive.

DR. RANDOLPH BROMERY is currently President of Roxbury Community College, and has served as President of Westfield State College and Springfield College. As the Chancellor at the University of Massachusetts, he participated in the acquisition of Dr. Du Bois's papers and memorabilia. He also participated in the nearly two-decade effort to name the University of Massachusetts Tower Library as the W.E.B. Du Bois Library.

DR. ROBERT PAYNTER, Professor of Anthropology, is an archaeologist from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. In the 1980s he conducted archaeological surveys of the W.E.B. Du Bois Boyhood Homesite here in Great Barrington with his field school from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has lectured and published on the Du Bois Boyhood Homesite and work he has done at Historic Deerfield.

DR. WARREN PERRY, Associate Professor of Anthropology, is an archaeologist from Central Connecticut State University. He directs the archaeological analysis of the African Burial Ground in New York City and heads Central Connecticut's field school, which has studied African Diaspora sites in Connecticut. He has lectured and published on these sites and on his archaeological research into the rise of the Zulu state in Malawi and South Africa.

DR. WILLIAM STRICKLAND teaches political science in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he is also Director of the Du Bois Papers Collection. He is a founding director of the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta, and has consulted on numerous films and documentaries on civil rights, including the prize winning "Eyes on the Prize," the PBS documentary "Malcolm X: Make it Plain", and, most recently the Louis Massiah film, "W.E.B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices." Dr. Strickland is a member of the Executive Board of the Du Bois Foundation.

BERNARD A. DREW, a Great Barrington resident for 25 years, is a journalist, editor, local historian and author of popular literature reference books. He is past president of the Great Barrington and the Berkshire County historical societies. His 656-page Great Barrington: Great Town*Great History was published in 1999. He is currently working on a social and industrial history of Monument Mountain.

DR. EMMANUEL DONGALA, Professor of Chemistry and Francophone African Literature at Simon's Rock College, has served as chairman of the chemistry department and, in 1985, was appointed Dean of Academic Affairs at the Universite de Brazzaville (Congo). From 1995-97 he held the position of vice-president of the Math and Physical Sciences section of the Conseil Africain et Malgache de l'Enseignement Supérieure (CAMES). Dr. Dongala is also a recognized writer of fiction as well as a Guggenheim Fellow. He says, "Du Bois has been very important to us in Africa, because he is the father of Pan Africanism and the first Pan African Congress held in Paris in 1919 was under his leadership."

MS. ELAINE S. GUNN, a former teacher at Bryant Elementary School, was a friend and worker for the original W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Committee, 1968-1969, and has been a local activist for civil rights since the 1960s. She reads the comments of MS. RUTH D. JONES and FREDERICK LORD, members of the original W.E.B. Du Bois Memorial Committee.

JUBILEE SCHOOL of Philadelphia, an alternative community school founded in 1977, has dedicated its last two academic years studying the legacy of W. E. B. Du Bois. Jubilee's commitment to connect with the Great Barrington community has sparked a revived interest in Du Bois's social and cultural contributions. This is the school's fourth visit to Great Barrington. Attending from Jubilee School are students Jamilah Barnes, Efa King, Paige Lyles and Aliyah Pressely-Qualls; parents Monica Barnes, Kimberly Everett, Monica Lyles and Linda Qualls; teachers Tanya Qualls, Bridgett Cassell, Helen Hatchett and Addressia Jones; and founder and principal Karen Whiteside Falcon.

DR. HOMER (SKIP) MEADE has been a resident of Berkshire County for more than thirty years. In addition to his teaching in the local regional school district and independent schools, he served as a member of the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Dr. Meade has been involved in the planning of many area Du Bois programs including the 1979 Dedication of the Du Bois Boyhood Homesite as a National Historic Landmark. More recently, as a Trustee of Berkshire Country Day School, Dr. Meade presented the idea of a W.E.B. Du Bois Curriculum Project that has embraced and supported BCD's full-year educational program that touches on themes, investigates the writings, and examines the life of good works of Dr. Du Bois.

CLINTON AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH CHOIR performed for the 1994 W.E.B. Du Bois dedication in Great Barrington. The choir has also sung for Martin Luther King Day celebrations at the United Methodist Church. Virginia Conway is director of the choir.

PRICE MEMORIAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH CHOIR performed for Jubilee School's first W.E.B. Du Bois dedication in Great Barrington in 2001. Paul Keele plays piano for the choir, which sings mostly gospel songs.

JOALLEN FORTE is the Choir Director and Cottage Manager at the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth in Canaan, New York. She is also the Choir Director at Macedonia Baptist Church, in Great Barrington.

Housatonic River Walk
Great Barrington Land Conservancy
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