

# The Niagara Movement at Harpers Ferry

## *The Cornerstone of the Modern Civil Rights Era* A Centennial Commemoration

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia  
August 18-20, 2006

### Thursday, August 17, 2006

3:30 pm

Unveiling of the Niagara Movement West Virginia  
State Historical Marker - Du Bois Tent

4:00 - 5:30 pm

“J.R. Clifford & the Carrie Williams Case”  
Dramatic Re-enactment of the Landmark 1898  
West Virginia Civil Rights Decision  
Curtis Freewill Baptist Church  
Free Tickets Required

7:30 - 9:00 pm

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7:00 - 7:45 pm

Opening Ceremony & Welcome - Murray Stage  
Music by the Shiloh Gospel Singers, Washington,  
DC - Murray Stage  
(Inclement weather site- Du Bois Tent)

8:00 - 8:45 pm

Dramatic Presentation “Women of Niagara” by  
Donzaleigh Abernathy, Actress, Author,  
Activist, Daughter of late Civil Rights leader,  
Rev. Ralph David Abernathy - Du Bois Tent

9:00 - 10:15 pm

African American Music in the Age of Niagara  
Dr. Michael White’s New Orleans Jazz Ensemble  
Murray Stage (Inclement weather site - Du Bois  
Tent)

### Friday August 18, 2006

5:00 - 10:00 pm

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Sales Tent  
Lawn  
Great Blacks in Wax Exhibit - Mather First Floor  
The Niagara Movement & 20th Century Civil  
Rights Workers - Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

5:30 pm

Catered Reception sponsored by National Parks  
Conservation Association with music  
by Howard Burns Ensemble - Food Court

6:45 - 7:00 pm

Gospel Prelude - Music by the Shiloh Gospel  
Singers, Washington, DC - Murray Stage  
(Inclement weather site- Du Bois Tent)

#### Activities in the Clifford Youth Discovery Tent

6:00 - 9:00 pm

“Freedom Quilt” Join an artist and contribute a square  
to the “Freedom Quilt”. The quilt squares will portray  
the ideas of young people in response to the question  
“What Does Freedom Mean?”

“Freedom House” Help to build the “Freedom House.”  
Using blocks of wood, write a word or phrase on the  
block that answers the question “What are the build-  
ing blocks of freedom?” Over the course of the week-  
end the blocks will be assembled to build a “Freedom  
House.”

Please note the schedule is subject to change

## Saturday August 19, 2006

9:00 - 10:30 am

Descendants Reception sponsored by the Bank of Charles Town - Harpers Ferry Center Patio

10:00 am - 9:00 pm

USPS Cancellation Kiosk - Lawn - closes at 5 p.m.  
Harpers Ferry Historical Association Sales Tent - Lawn  
Food Court - Harpers Ferry Center Entry Area  
Great Blacks in Wax Exhibit - Mather First Floor  
Du Bois Documentary - Mather Second Floor  
Niagara Exhibit - Curtis Freewill Baptist Church  
Hershaw Gathering Tent - Mather Lot  
The Niagara Movement & 20th Century Civil Rights Workers - Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

10:00 - 10:45 am

Musical Prelude - Howard Burns Ensemble - Murray Stage (Inclement weather site Du Bois Tent)

11:00 - 11:45 am

Welcome and Keynote Address  
Dr. David Levering Lewis, Professor of History at NYU, Two-Time Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author  
Du Bois Tent

11:45 - 12:00 pm

“Cornerstone Program: A Battle for all Americans”  
Children’s Program highlighting the significance of the Niagara Movement - Du Bois Tent

12:00 - 12:30 pm

Music in the Food Court - Howard Burns Ensemble

12:30 - 1:15 pm

“Reverdy C. Ransom & The Spirit of John Brown”  
Fred Morsell as Reverdy C. Ransom, Actor, Historian, Author - Du Bois Tent

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Gospel Concert – The Dixie Hummingbirds  
Murray Stage (Inclement weather site Du Bois Tent)

1:30 - 2:15

Storer College History Series - Rev. John William Dundy - Dr. Peggy Brooks Bertram, Professor African American Studies, University of Buffalo  
Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

### Activities in the Clifford Youth Discovery Tent

9:00 - noon, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, and 7:00 - 9:00 pm

“Freedom Quilt” Join an artist and contribute a square to the “Freedom Quilt”. The quilt squares will portray the ideas of young people in response to the question “What Does Freedom Mean?”

“Freedom House” Help to build the “Freedom House.” Using blocks of wood, write a word or phrase on the block that answers the question “What are the building blocks of freedom?” Over the course of the weekend the blocks will be assembled to build a “Freedom House.”

9:15 - 9:45 am “Freedom Timeline” Discover some of the people and events that played a role in ending slavery and securing equality for African Americans by becoming a part of a living timeline.

10:00 - 10:30 am “Extra! Extra! Read All About It!” The events of the 1906 Niagara Movement meeting were covered by local newspapers. Discover and discuss what these newspapers had to say about what happened in Harpers Ferry.

10:45 - 11:15 am “Laying the Cornerstone of the Modern Civil Rights Era”

12:30 - 1:15 pm “The Evolution of Music at the time of the Niagara Movement” Dr. Michael White, Xavier University

1:30 - 2:00 pm “What Would Dr. Du Bois Do?” In his “Address to the Country,” Dr. Du Bois outlined five points necessary for the achievement of equal rights for African Americans. Discover how these points relate to events of today.

2:30 - 3:30 pm “Magpie” musical performance

4:00 - 5:00 pm “I Am One; Send Me!” A theatrical musical production about the Life of “Miss Jennie” - Jane Serepta Dean

## Saturday August 19, 2006

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Panel Discussion: "The Problem of the Twentieth Century will be the Problem of the Color Line: Breaking Barriers in America" - Du Bois Tent

### Panelists:

Juanita Abernathy, widow of Civil Rights leader  
Rev. Ralph David Abernathy

Rev. Walter Fauntroy, Civil Rights pioneer and first  
D.C. Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives

Dr. Eddie Henderson, first African American to  
compete in the National Figure Skating  
Championships

Monte Irvin, pioneer in breaking color barrier in  
major league baseball, member of the National  
Baseball Hall of Fame

Cheryl White, First African American female  
professional jockey

Joseph Wilder, barrier breaking African American  
musician on Broadway

4:00 - 5:00

Sorrow Songs, Protest Songs and the Souls of Black  
Folks - Dr. MaryNell Morgan, Empire State College,  
New York - Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Book and CD Signing and Reception - featuring  
authors and artists - Mather Lawn

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Breaking Barriers in America: Music by The World  
Famous Count Basie Orchestra, Directed by  
William H. Hughes, featuring debut of original  
Niagara Movement Centennial Score, *Niagara  
Suite*, written and conducted by Dr. Frank Foster -  
Murray Stage  
(Inclement weather site- Du Bois Tent)

9:15 - 10:00 pm

Scotty Barnhart Quartet, featuring special guest  
musicians - Du Bois Tent

8:00 - 10:00 pm Music at Bolivar Heights featuring the  
Preservation Hall Jazz Band  
Location: Washington Street in Bolivar

## Sunday August 20, 2006

6:00 - 6:45 am

Meet at Visitor Center for transport to Murphy  
Farm

6:00 - 7:15 am

Coffee Reception - Gathering Tent - Murphy Farm  
sponsored by the Town of Harpers Ferry

7:30 - 8:30 am

Pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort  
If there is inclement weather a tent will be erected.

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Sales Tent -  
Lawn  
Food Court - Harpers Ferry Center Entry Area  
Great Blacks in Wax Exhibit - Mather First Floor  
Du Bois Documentary - Mather Second Floor  
The Niagara Movement & 20th Century Civil  
Rights Workers - Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

10:30 - 11:30 am

Memorial Service - Du Bois Tent

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Odetta - Songs of Freedom & Inspiration  
Murray Stage  
(Inclement weather site- Du Bois Tent)

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Music on Harpers Ferry Center Patio  
Howard Burns Ensemble

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Reflections of W.E.B. DuBois - Du Bois Tent

Dr. David Levering Lewis, Professor of History at  
NYU, Two-Time Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author

Dr. DuBois Irvin, Granddaughter of W.E.B.  
DuBois, Professor of Psychology, Xavier University  
of Louisiana

Moderator, Dr. Lawrence Hogan, Professor of  
History, Union County College

**2:45 - 4:00 pm**

Music by Delfeayo Marsalis Quintet  
Murray Stage  
(Inclement weather site- Du Bois Tent)

**3:00 - 3:45 pm**

Lecture - TBA  
Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

**3:45 - 4:00 pm**

Closing Ceremony - Presentation of Niagara Centennial Plaque followed by gathering for centennial photograph on Mather Lawn

### Activities in the Clifford Youth Discovery Tent

**11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

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**12:00 - 12:30 am “Extra! Extra! Read All About It!”**  
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**1:00 - 2:00 pm Douglass, Du Bois & Ransom - How Did They Change Our Lives?**

Join acclaimed actor Fred Morsell as he discusses the impact that Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Reverdy Ransom had on our lives.