



# W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Festival

Racial Equality • Economic Justice • Civil Rights • Progressive Education

## 8th Annual Du Bois Legacy Festival February, 2025

Saturday, February 22nd

*Freedom Moves: Embodying the Legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois*

**First Congregational Church  
Great Barrington, 2-5 pm**

A dynamic and playful workshop led by award-winning dancer/choreographer Gesel Mason and TED Fellow & “scholartist” Dr. Amma Y. Gharthey Tagoe-Kootin, explores the core values championed by W.E.B. Du Bois and asks, “Who would you be and what would you do, if you were completely free?” All ages & abilities welcome; space is limited.

To register and for more details visit <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/freedom-moves/>

Sponsored by Jacob’s Pillow, BRIDGE & the Town of Great Barrington Du Bois Legacy Committee.

*Du Bois Freedom Center Reception*  
Great Barrington, 6-7:30 pm

The W. E. B. Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy welcomes Festival goers & Du Bois Legacy partners to a birthday eve reception at their new field office at 309 Main Street in Great Barrington. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet their new board members and interim Director Dr. John Lloyd.

**W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Day  
Sunday, February 23rd**

*Service & Convocation*

**Macedonia Baptist Church**

**Great Barrington, 9 am**

**Processional Legacy Walk, 9:45 am**

Join BRIDGE, Reverend Conway & the Macedonia congregation to welcome all to a special convocation honoring Dr. Du Bois, with guest Pastor Traci Jackson to launch the birthday of our native son. Following the convocation the Festival continues and all will proceed from the church on a Legacy Walk through the neighborhood in Great Barrington at 9:45 landing at the birthday celebration.

*Du Bois Birthday Celebration*

*“Imagining Du Bois through the Arts: Past, Present, and Future”*

**Mason Library**

**Great Barrington, 11 am**

Join us for a morning in the exercise of commemoration and imagination with activist scholars and artists exploring Du Bois’ legacy.

Best-selling novelist **Victoria Christopher Murray** will read from her latest work, *Harlem Rhapsody* (Ventfort Hall at 3pm tea). **Gesel Mason** will share creative embodied practice from the Freedom Moves workshop, and **Dr. Amma Y. Gharthey-Tagoe Kootin** and **Dr. Khalil Sullivan** of the *At Buffalo* Project will present “*Imagining Du Bois on the Stage: AT BUFFALO, A New Musical*”

A facilitated community discussion will follow, including reflection on Du Bois’s *Black Reconstruction* in its 90th anniversary year.

Participants will be able to view a special artifact copy of *Black Reconstruction* from Du Bois’s personal library. Harlem Rhapsody book signing & reception with lunch to follow.



The Great Barrington Du Bois Legacy Committee's mission is to preserve and promote Du Bois's legacy as a scholar and activist for freedom, civil rights, progressive education, economic justice, and racial equality.





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## *Freedom Moves: Embodying the Legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois*

First Congregational Church  
Great Barrington  
Saturday, February 22, 2025  
2-5pm

Step into the power of movement and storytelling in this dynamic and playful workshop celebrating the legacy of W.E.B. Du Bois. Led by dance artists Gesel Mason and Roxanne Young, and “scholartist” Dr. Amma Y. Gharthey-Tagoe Kootin, this session invites you to explore and express the core values championed by W.E.B. Du Bois: freedom, civil rights, progressive education, economic justice, and racial equality.

Rooted in the question, “Who would you be and what would you do, if you were completely free?” you’ll blend movement, reflection, and creativity to imagine new possibilities for yourself and your community. Come prepared to move, scribble, nibble, reflect, and kiki in an open and collaborative space. Whether you’re a seasoned dancer or just curious to move, all ages and abilities are welcome.

This workshop is not only about creating but about sharing stories and building connections. What we explore and express together will be woven into a choreographic offering, which will be shared as part of Sunday’s festivities.

Wear your comfy clothes and come ready to embrace the spirit of community, reflection, and imagination. Let’s move into freedom together.

Walk-ups are welcome, however, registration in advance is recommended.

To register and for more details visit <https://www.jacobspillow.org/events/freedom-moves/>

Following the workshop, as part of our annual Festival celebration tradition, on the eve of Dr. Du Bois’s birthday the W. E. B. Du Bois Center for Freedom and Democracy invites all to join for the opening reception of their field office. Guests will have the opportunity to meet their interim Director, Dr. John Lloyd at 309 Main Street, Great Barrington from 6:00-7:30 pm.



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## W.E.B. Du Bois Legacy Day

Sunday, February 23, 2025

*Service & Convocation*

Macedonia Baptist Church  
Great Barrington, 9:00 AM

Processional Legacy Walk, 9:45 AM

Join BRIDGE, Reverend Conway & the Macedonia congregation to welcome all to a special convocation honoring Dr. Du Bois, with guest **Pastor Traci Jackson** to launch the birthday of our native son. Following the convocation the Festival continues and all will proceed from the church on a Legacy Walk through the neighborhood in Great Barrington at 9:45 landing at the birthday celebration.

### *Birthday Celebration Event*

## *Imagining Du Bois through the Arts: Past, Present & Future*

Mason Library  
Great Barrington, 11:00 AM

Participants in the processional Legacy Walk will arrive at the Mason Library for the birthday celebration event at 11:00 AM.

Guest speakers include novelist **Victoria Christopher Murray**, New York Times and USA Today best selling author of more than 30 novels, who will read a selection from her newest work of fiction, *Harlem Rhapsody*. Dancer/choreographer **Gesel Mason** will present from *Freedom Moves: the Embodiment of a Legacy* and **Dr. Amma Y. Ghartey Tagoe-Kootin** and **Dr. Khalil Sullivan** of the *Buffalo Team* will join the Festival's birthday celebration presentation as we honor the 90th anniversary year of *Black Reconstruction* and Dr. W. E.B. Du Bois. Dr Amma Ghartey Tagoe-Kootin, a Ted Talk Fellow, will share her personal and professional ties to Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois.

Also joining the event on Sunday will be Legacy Committee member **Ari Zorn** with **Julie Michaels** as representatives of the W.E.B. Du Bois Sculpture Project of Great Barrington. And Legacy Committee Vice Chair **Gwendolyn VanSant** as MC and moderator. Legacy Committee member **Leah Reed** will welcome with song and we are pleased to be joined by State Representative **Leigh Davis** and members of the Great Barrington Selectboard.

An artifact copy of *Black Reconstruction* from Du Bois's personal library will be on view, courtesy of collector and Du Bois Legacy Committee co-chair Randy Weinstein.

Lunch reception to follow, with thanks to Bae's Global Kitchen.



VENTFORT HALL



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