

*100 Years of Commitment  
to Social Justice & Civil Rights*

1909-2009

1



Martha's Vineyard Branch, NAACP  
Centennial Souvenir Journal 2009

# FULL-LENGTH LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE *WASHINGTON POST*

By Charles J. Ogletree, Jr

Dear Editors:

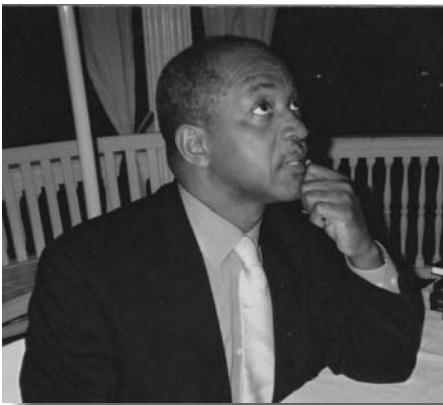
In her April 19 column, *Why We Should Get Rid of the NAACP*, Jonetta Rose Barras asked: “Why do we even need the NAACP?” Well, let me count the ways. Despite her claim that we are “in an age of integration,” the majority of African American families and children, even those that are middle class, remain segregated in schools and communities that are poorer and less safe than whites of similar income. The average black child now attends a school that is not only racially segregated, but where more than half the students are poor, thus compounding the obstacles he or she faces in obtaining a quality education. As a result, only about half of African American students are graduating on time from high school, as compared to more than 70% of white students. Blacks make up 13% of our nation’s population, but 40% of the prison population. According to sociologist Bruce Western, the penal system has become “ubiquitous in the lives of low-education African American men.”

Huge wealth gaps exist between blacks and whites in this country. In 2001, the average black male worker earned 72 cents to every dollar earned by a white male. More than half of the children born to middle class black parents are falling down the economic ladder as adults. African Americans have a far lower life expectancy than whites, are more likely to be uninsured, and less likely to be treated aggressively for diseases and illnesses by their doctors. Although the Voting Rights Act is now more than 40 years old, public officials still shamelessly and blatantly attempt to suppress the African American vote during every election cycle.

The NAACP’s lesser known efforts include, but are certainly not limited to pursuing several predatory lending lawsuits, fighting employment discrimination in advertisement industry, and supporting the Employee Free Choice Act. Given these few examples, it is hard for me to take seriously the notion that we should get rid of the NAACP.

The NAACP was founded more than 100 years ago by a group of black and white men and women who met in New York to create an organization focused on fighting for racial equality by fighting against discrimination and prejudice. It could not have come at a more critical time, in that various particular acts of racial discrimination, including lynching and other forms of race-based hatred and disgust, were occurring with remarkable frequency. Today, it has adopted its agenda to address the civil rights issues of our time: unequal education, economic empowerment, criminal justice reform, health access and treatment, civic engagement and voting rights. The NAACP has always had as its foremost goal fighting discrimination in every form. Personally, there is no doubt in my mind that I could never have graduated from Stanford University or Harvard Law School, nor serve as a tenured professor of law here at Harvard Law School, if were not for the important and groundbreaking work of the NAACP. The NAACP has led to an incredible increase of professional opportunities for people of all races, reducing the gap in opportunities between blacks and whites. Yet, Ms. Barras suggests that its focus and tactics are “obsolete” and “anachronistic” and that the only way for it to become relevant is to “adopt the Bill Cosby

agenda.” Given the abundance of evidence of continued systemic racism—including the effects of unconscious or implicit bias—in the United States, I argue that the NAACP is not only very necessary, but is placing its emphasis exactly where it belongs: on dismantling structural, rather than individual, impediments to equality and full citizenship for African Americans in this country.



\*Charles J. Ogletree, Jr Executive Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and most recently the author of *When Law Fails: Making Sense of Miscarriages of Justice*, published by NYU Press (2009)

An abbreviated version of this letter was published on May 22, 2009 in the *Washington Post*.

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

What an extraordinary year capping off an extraordinary 100 years of the NAACP. What we celebrate in 2009 is not simply the journey the NAACP has traveled, but the journey that we, as Americans, have traveled over the past 100 years. It is a journey that takes us back in time before most of us were even born.

Long before the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act, and Brown v Board of Education, it was a time when Jim Crow was a way of life; when lynchings were all too common; when race riots were shaking cities across a segregated land.

It was in this America where W.E.B. DuBois, a man of towering intellect and a fierce passion for justice, sparked what became known as the Niagara movement; where reformers united, not by color, but by cause. Where an association was born that would as its charter says, promote equality and eradicate prejudice among citizens of the United States.

From the beginning the founders understood how change would come – just as King and all the civil rights leaders did later. They understood that unjust laws needed to be overturned; that legislation needed to be passed; that the stain of slavery and the sin of segregation had to be lifted in the courtroom and in the hearts and minds of Americans. They also knew that here, in America, change would have to come from the people. It is humbling to think of the progress made by ordinary people who refused to settle for the world as it was and instead stood up and fought to remake the world as it should be. This is what the NAACP is about!!

And yet even as we celebrate the remarkable achievements of the past 100 years, we know that too many barriers still remain. There is still not a level playing field in economic and educational opportunities for every community. Continuing disparities exist in housing, health care and the workplace. They're very different barriers from the ones faced by earlier generations. It is better, but it is not equal.

But what is required to confront today's barriers is the same as what was needed then. The same commitment. The same sense of urgency. The same sense of sacrifice. The same sense of community. The same willingness to do our part for ourselves and for one another. These barriers are not African American problems – they are American problems and The NAACP will continue to fight for as long as it takes. The relevancy of the NAACP does not cease with the election of an African American President or African American Governor. It is just the next step in a long road. Yes we are energized and emboldened by the historic election of America's first black president. We were not surprised that Americans, at long last, voted to choose high quality ideas, soaring spirit and bright vision over the racial, cultural and class distinctions that have so long divided us. The NAACP ignited a spark that has become a blazing flame, which cannot and will not be extinguished.

As the new President of the Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP, I am so proud of how the NAACP and our supporters have transformed America over the last 100 years, but we must continue to actively help to shape the values we wish to project for our country and our Island community. The NAACP has advanced its mission through reliance upon members and supporters who are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

The Nation and the Island are in the midst of transition and change. We must stay involved and educate our young people about their history so they can get involved and continue the dreams of the future. Our local branch is committed to reactivating a Youth Council. The objectives shall be to inform students of problems of other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance their economic, education, social, political status and harmonious cooperation with other people; provide networking and social opportunities for youth and young adults in the local community; and encourage the participation of youth and young adults in all activities and leadership within the Branch.

Leadership is not a torch that can be passed on – it is a torch that has to be grasped and built upon. We have to make sure our youth are prepared to take care of the opportunities the NAACP creates.

From old to young, from black to white, from the ballot box to the boardroom, members of the NAACP have led the fight for civil and political liberty, social justice and the true enactment of freedom. As we begin the next 100 years, won't you serve with the MV/NAACP and remind all American's what ordinary people can accomplish when we stand together. There is nothing that can't be done, when we raise our voice as one.



*Laurie Perry-Henry*

## From the Centennial Journal Committee

The Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP has created this special souvenir journal commemorating the NAACP centennial year and the Ninth Annual George V. Tankard, Jr. Freedom Fund 5K Road Race & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk which will take place on Saturday, September 19th, 2009 in Oak Bluffs. The Road Race Journal has consistently been the branch's most significant fundraiser enabling us to meet our financial obligations to the National Office and to continue our work locally.

We are grateful to those of you who have supported us in the past by taking an ad in our journal and we welcome our new supporters. Our advertisers are important to us. Many have supported the MV/NAACP for years. We hope all of you will support them in return. As you go about the Island, please call on them for your needs. Also thanks to all of you who made contributions after the Centennial Journal went to press. The Centennial Journal will be distributed over the course of the year at each of our events which are listed on our website, [www.mvnaacp.org](http://www.mvnaacp.org).

We would like to thank everyone who worked to make this journal a success especially Javonne Anderson, Jacqueline Hunt, Mary Louise Koch, Janet Morris, Laurie Perry-Henry and Vera Shorter who gave generously of their time to help obtain advertisers from our community.

A wealth of history lies between these pages and we hope you will take the time to read all the articles and historical documents that have been included. What we accomplish in our present is important, but let us remember our past and honor those who came before us.

In the struggle,  
*Carrie Camillo Tankard*  
*Rhonda Iris Cohen*

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### MV/NAACP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Laurie Perry-Henry, *President*  
Marie B. Allen, *First Vice President*  
Carrie Camillo Tankard, *Second Vice President*  
Rhonda Iris Cohen, *Treasurer*  
Casey Sharpe, *Secretary*

Marcia Buckley  
Herb Foster  
Curt Gear  
Colleen Morris  
Vera Shorter

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**Freedom Fund** – Rhonda Iris Cohen, Curt Gear, *Co-Chairs*, Colleen Morris, Vera Shorter, Carrie Camillo Tankard  
**Legal Redress** – Vera Shorter, *Chair*, Marie B. Allen, Paul Condlin, Al Daniels, Ken Gross, Barbara Linton, Joyce Rickson  
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**Religious Affairs** – Marcia Buckley, *Chair*,  
**Youth** – Marcia Buckley, *Chair*, Shawn Ramoutar

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*Pictured on the back cover:*  
*Skip Finley · Julian Bond & Mandred Henry*  
*Myra Romain, Jerry Wells, Dr. Lorna Andrade · Sadie Goss*  
*Jenero Lamb, Rozetta Hughes, Elizabeth Quick · Youth representatives of Heritage Trail dedication*  
*Shirley Graves, George Tankard Jr, Vineyard Gazette Reporter, Carrie Tankard · Banner on 4th of July float*



**NAACP**  
**NEW ENGLAND AREA CONFERENCE**

Post Office Box 320128  
(617) 325-7580

West Roxbury, MA 02132  
Facsimile (617) 325-7666

August 1, 2009

Members and Friends of the NAACP:

On behalf of the New England Area Conference (NEAC), I am delighted to welcome you to the Martha's Vineyard program series celebrating the NAACP Centennial Anniversary. The theme of the centennial celebration is:

***BOLD DREAMS -- BIG VICTORIES***

Indeed, the struggle, sacrifice and steadfast commitment of so many, carrying the NAACP banner for 100 years, has caused the greatest fundamental change for social justice and human dignity our American society has experienced. While the advances have been substantial, the fight for fair and equal treatment, equality of opportunity and justice for all is far from over.

Active participation from Branches across the county like the Martha's Vineyard Branch have made the NAACP the most effective civil rights organization in the country over its history of 100 years. Within NEAC, the Martha's Vineyard Branch has consistently emerged as one of its most active and productive Branches. The Martha's Vineyard Branch is to be commended for its outstanding performance. The leadership has made the difference.

Even more importantly, NEAC expresses its gratitude to you, the members and friends of the Martha's Vineyard Branch. Your support is making a difference to the civil rights struggle. Because there is so much yet to be done, I ask that you continue to support, through your time and financial resources, the work of the Branch. Your support goes further than you realize and it impacts the lives of more people than you realize.

Again, thank you. Please remain as an important contributor.

Sincerely yours,

**Juan M. Cofield**

Juan M. Cofield  
President



## Barack & Michelle Obama

Laurie E. Perry  
PO Box 1364  
Edgartown MA 02539



Dear Ms. Perry,

The victory we achieved on November 4 means so much to so many -- but to all of us, it is a stirring affirmation of our country's most fundamental promise: America is a place where anything -- anything we choose to dream together, anything for which we choose to work together -- is possible.

Ours was never the likeliest campaign for the presidency. We didn't start with much money or many endorsements. Our campaign was not hatched in the halls of Washington -- it was built by working men and women, students and retirees who dug into what little savings they had to give five dollars and ten dollars and twenty dollars to this cause.

It grew from the millions of Americans who volunteered, and organized, and proved that more than two centuries later, a government of the people, by the people and for the people has not perished from the Earth.

Laurie, this is your victory. But even as we celebrate, we know the challenges are the greatest of our lifetime -- two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century. The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. And we will be asking you to join in the work of remaking this nation the only way it's been done in America for 221 years -- block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand. What began 21 months ago in the depth of winter must not end on a night in autumn. This victory alone is not the change we seek -- it is only the chance for us to make that change.

Laurie, this is our moment. This is our time -- to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth -- that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope, and where we are met with cynicism, and doubt, and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes We Can.

For now, please accept our deepest thanks. We will never forget you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barack Obama in black ink.

Barack Obama

Handwritten signature of Michelle Obama in black ink.

Michelle Obama

Obama for America • PO Box 802798 • Chicago, IL 60680

Paid for by Obama for America

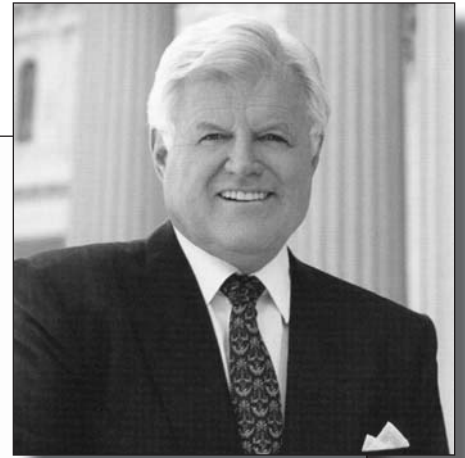


EDWARD M. KENNEDY  
MASSACHUSETTS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

August 1, 2009



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to offer greetings and congratulations as the Martha's Vineyard Branch celebrates the Centennial of the NAACP. Since its founding 100 years ago, the NAACP has been a leader in ensuring that our nation's founding ideals of social justice and equality are enjoyed by all Americans. The NAACP's accomplishments are immeasurable and its work has inspired countless others to follow its lead. Tonight is certainly a momentous occasion as you commemorate all that the NAACP has achieved and its continuing vital contributions to the advancement of civil rights.

The outstanding efforts and impressive leadership of the NAACP have been a guiding force behind many significant pieces of legislation and policy initiatives relating to fairness and justice. As we recognize the progress made in such areas as the ballot box, the workplace, and educational equality, we must also remind ourselves that there is still much to be accomplished. The NAACP has never shied away from the challenging or the unpleasant. Together, we must continue to fight the struggle for civil rights and make every effort to guarantee that the principles of democracy are realized for all members of our society.

Today, we are in the critical stages of the passage of long overdue health care reform legislation, which, when enacted, will once again renew our commitment to the nation's fundamental values of providing each and every individual with equal rights. The Health Reform Bill will offer all Americans access to the quality, affordable health insurance that they so richly deserve.

I extend my utmost gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment and hard work to the causes that the NAACP and its Martha's Vineyard Branch so ably champion. I commend you for your dedication and look forward to working with you to meet the great challenges that lie ahead. As Dr. King once said, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle."

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

BILL DELAHUNT  
TENTH DISTRICT  
MASSACHUSETTS

July 13, 2009

To the Members of the Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP:

I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest congratulations on your Centennial Celebration.

At this pivotal moment in our nation's history, the work of the NAACP is needed now more than ever. Addressing disparities and breaking down barriers – whether in the realm of health care, education, criminal justice, economic security or political empowerment – will depend upon the noble and dedicated efforts of organizations such as yours. In light of President Obama's historic election, we can be encouraged about the prospects for meaningful change on many of these fronts, change for which the NAACP has admirably fought over the years on behalf of some of our most vulnerable and underserved citizens.

Ever since the NAACP's inception, you have shown impressive leadership and fortitude in championing equality for Islanders in all areas of their lives. Your exceptional work and commitment to our core values is admirable. I commend each and every one of you for your selfless devotion of time, your expertise and – most of all – your love for our community. I am truly impressed by your dedication.

Congratulations again on this momentous occasion. I wish you continued success as – working together – we strive to achieve our mutual goals.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Delahunt".

Bill Delahunt



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133

(617) 725-4000

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 2009

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I send greetings as you gather to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

With a strong commitment to civil rights and community involvement, the Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP has been integral to forming an island community that respects diversity and upholds justice. While it has been a remarkable century for the NAACP, I know, like you do, that there remains work to be done. Until we ensure that every one of our children has the same chance at success, until the doors of opportunity are open to every one, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to spread equality throughout our Commonwealth and our nation. I commend you for your work in that journey, and look forward to our continued partnership on the road ahead.

I commend you for your important work on Martha's Vineyard and I hope you continue to make your community a place where diversity and understanding thrive. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick".



MARtha COAKLEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108-1698

July 22, 2009

(617) 727-2200  
[www.ago.state.ma.us](http://www.ago.state.ma.us)

Laurie Perry-Henry, President  
NAACP of Martha's Vineyard  
P.O. Box 1513  
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

*Re: NAACP Centennial Celebration*

Dear Ms. Perry-Henry:

Congratulations and best wishes on this historic NAACP Centennial Celebration. There are few organizations that can match the illustrious history and impact of the NAACP. From its humble beginnings in a New York apartment in 1909, the NAACP and its members have changed this country for the better in ways unimaginable at the time of that inaugural meeting long ago.

Inspired by race riots in Illinois, the birthplace of Lincoln, the NAACP sought to bring the country closer to the ideals articulated by its founders: equality, liberty and opportunity. Over the past 100 years, the NAACP has achieved a remarkable record of advocacy and reform. The NAACP, through the courts, education and community action, has played an instrumental role in breaking down segregation and its vestiges, and promoting equality and integration across our Commonwealth and our country.

The NAACP's membership includes civil rights luminaries such as W.E.B DuBois, Medgar Evers, Charles Hamilton Houston, and Thurgood Marshall, many of whom also spent formative years in Massachusetts. This generation can learn much from their examples of persistence, conviction, clarity of purpose and insistence on excellence.

Finally, I would like to recognize and congratulate you on the work of the Martha's Vineyard chapter of the NAACP. Your efforts to increase voter turnout, to mediate discrimination complaints, and to increase affordable housing are commendable. Martha's Vineyard has a special place in African American history and your current work does much to honor that history and the legacy of the NAACP. My best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Coakley".  
Martha Coakley  
Massachusetts Attorney General

## HOW THE NATIONAL NAACP BEGAN

In the summer of 1908, the country was shocked by the account of race riots in Springfield, Illinois. A mob of the “best citizens” of Abraham Lincoln’s hometown had raged for two days, killed and wounded scores of Negroes, and driven thousands from the city. Articles on the subject appeared in newspapers and magazines. One such article, which appeared in the *Independent* on September 3, 1908, written by William English Walling and entitled “Race War in the North”, ended with the sentence, “Yet who realized the seriousness of the situation, and what large and powerful body of citizens is ready to come to their aid?” Mrs. Mary White Ovington answered that charge by meeting Mr. Walling and Dr. Henry Moskowitz during the first week of 1909.

It was in the little room of a New York apartment that the NAACP was born. The call was made to others to join the cause. The celebration of the centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln was the date. “Hence we call upon all the believers in democracy to join in a national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protest, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty.” Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Mrs. Mary Church Terrell and Dr. J. Milton Walton, from Atlanta, and the Rev. Francis J. Grimke, from Washington, DC, were among those who signed the Call.

It was at a second conference in New York in May 1910 that a permanent body to be known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized.

When Dr. W.E.B. DuBois was called to the conference, he brought the conference closely in touch with an organization of colored people that had been formed in 1905 at Niagara and was known as the Niagara Movement. This organization had been involved in the work of legal redress along the lines of the NAACP. In 1910, it

had conducted important civil rights cases and had in its membership some of the prominent colored lawyers in the country, among them Mr. W. Ashbie Hawkins, its treasurer.

The first issue of *The Crisis*, the official news organ of the NAACP, was published in November, 1910. Its name was suggested by Lowell’s poem, ‘The Present Crisis.’

The NAACP was incorporated in the State of New York in 1911. The principal objectives as stated in the Certificate of Incorporation were as follows: “...voluntarily to promote equality of rights and eradicate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for their children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before the law...”

Today, the NAACP works along four main lines in pursuit of its goals:

1. It uses the courts, state and federal, to secure justice and level barriers.
2. It works for the enactment of national, state and local laws to protect civil rights and ban racial discrimination.
3. It carries an education program in efforts to create a climate of opinion in favor of equal rights and human brotherhood.
4. It engages in selective buying campaigns, picketing and direct action programs.

The basic policies of the Association are developed at its annual convention by delegates elected to represent local NAACP units. In the form of resolutions, policies are presented to the National Board of Directors for ratification.

*The Martha’s Vineyard chapter thanks  
the national NAACP for this  
historical information*

## EARLY HISTORY OF THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD NAACP

*by Carrie Tankard, Keeper of the Archives*

The Martha's Vineyard NAACP has not had a written history until now. We have a host of officers and committees, but we have never had a home of our own. Consequently, each one of us has had bits and pieces of information in our homes, in basements and attics. For our 30th anniversary in 1993, I began the process of compiling a written history, which continues to today. My search has taken me to the local newspapers and libraries and has involved many phone calls and letters. I have also made many new, and rekindled some old, friendships on my journey.

I was not one of the founders of MV NAACP, although I am old enough to have

been here at the time. I moved to the Vineyard, with my husband and six children, a few years after the chapter began. We moved to the Vineyard in search of a better life for our children and ourselves, from the riots in Newark.

In 1963, a young Episcopalian minister, the Rev. Henry L. Bird, began his term as pastor on the Vineyard. He was a crusader and activist for civil rights, and could not forget the struggles and oppression of African-American people in Williamston, North Carolina, the site of his previous parish. As he began to talk and pray about their plight, his Vineyard parishioners and friends began to formulate plans to help



*The first MV NAACP float in a 4th of July parade (1964) by Shirley Mayhew*

these people. Of course, there were those who disagreed, didn't understand, or didn't care, and the church became divided. Rev. Bird was eventually asked to leave: he moved to another church in Cundy's Harbor, Maine. But the group on Martha's Vineyard continued their work. They held fundraisers and food drives for the people in Williamston.

Fearing the money and food might not get to the people intended, a group of ministers and the *Vineyard Five*, a group of women, drove to North Carolina with the care packages. These five women were housewives, writers, and a tax collector; one, when asked why they took the trip, replied, "I wouldn't want my grandchildren to know that I had a chance to make a change, and didn't do it."

The Vineyarders were met with as much disdain as the African Americans were experiencing. They set up voter registration booths and picketed a Sears Roebuck store that would not hire blacks. After staging what was called an illegal march, they were arrested and jailed overnight. The irony of the whole adventure was that after all they had been through, and all the hatred they encountered from other whites, and the brutal treatment of the blacks, they had to travel on a highway called "Pleasure Highway 13" in order to return home.

I had tea with four of the women not long ago, on my historical mission, and they said they can "laugh about it now, but it was a frightening experience" at that time. This group formed many friendships, and continued the fight. Vineyarders and Williamston residents exchanged visits on several occasions and still have a connection in their hearts.

While the North Carolina experience was going on, the Vineyard had made a connection with the Cape Cod branch. Afterwards, with an overwhelming response and increase in membership, Vineyarders thought it was time to branch out on their own, and form a chapter here. Although there was no overt racism on the Vineyard,

there were subtle things happening that would be extremely hard to prove. The realtors would not refuse to take you around: they would just take you around, where they wanted you to go. No one made a point of discouraging you from joining the country, tennis, or yacht clubs, but neither did anyone encourage or invite you to join. A lack of sensitivity was deeply felt, and needed to be addressed.

Organizational meetings began, first in private homes, then in church halls, and by the end of 1963, officers and committees were in place, with the late Toby Dorsey at the helm as interim president. Others who helped form the branch were Walter Stevens, Roscoe Heathman, Audrey LeVasseur, Dr. Milton and Virginia Mazur, Polly Murphy, Audria Tankard, Nancy Whiting, and Peg Lilienthal.

Then along came Kivie Kaplan, a Boston-based Jewish businessman, who became a vital link between the Vineyard and the NAACP. He was president of the national NAACP at the time. He spent many



*Carrie Tankard with part of her African American doll collection*

summers on the Vineyard and sold regular and life NAACP memberships to anyone and everyone he encountered. He bought memberships for his entire family of 63 members at that time. His son still summers on the Vineyard and is currently a member of our local branch.

The Martha's Vineyard NAACP has since presented and hosted many well-known people, including Mrs. Medger Evers, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Andrew Young, and such celebrities as Roberta Flack and Tanya Hart. Many talented local entertainers and artists have also been part of our functions. Our yearly programs are few but varied.

Each January, we have our Martin Luther King, Jr. membership dinner. This is a very special event, attended by young and old, black and white, and people from many religious backgrounds. We started as soon as the Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday became a national holiday, and have grown from the church halls, with volunteer hospitality, cooking, serving and cleaning committees, to a well-known Vineyard restaurant, completely catered. Along with the dinner, there is a keynote speaker, and often an art exhibit. The cost of the dinner includes the membership dues for the year.

About twenty-five years ago, under the leadership of Jakki Hunt, the Kivie Kaplan Scholarship was established by our branch. Three more scholarships have been added since then, and we have presented awards totalling almost \$60,000 so far. To secure money, we organize dances, fashion shows, raffles, and, in recent years, a very successful summer 'High Tea'.

In the summer, we also plan our major fundraiser, for the Freedom Fund. Since we rely on the kindness and generosity of our summer visitors for this, we try to have something entertaining as well as informative. We have had Gospel groups, dancers, actors, and storytellers. We offer a chance for friends, relatives and business people to advertise in our souvenir journal, which greatly adds to the proceeds. This year the journal you are reading is a part of this effort.

Our membership is well over 250, but as with most organizations, we have the faithful 25 who attend regular meetings, and the Super 10 who carry the ball.

Our youth are the only ones that remain elusive. We gain some, we lose some. They must leave the island to continue their education and pursue their dreams. We catch them when we can, and include them in our functions. We sponsor field trips and dances and support their programs. The youth take an active part in fundraising for the scholarships. They have their own charter, issued from the national office.

We have also had those unpleasant tasks to perform. The political action committee came face to face with the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School and the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, the largest employers on the island. We wanted them to adhere to the affirmative action regulations set down by the state, especially since they signed off to get the monies, but had no directives or policies regarding affirmative action, written or otherwise. We had to convince them that this was unacceptable, and "encourage them to comply." After some struggles, they did, and the schools in particular have come around.

The NAACP is called in to participate in the interviewing and hiring process of new personnel, and we are asked to participate in the multicultural programs in the schools. We also have representatives in place on the policy and behavior handbook committee. This handbook is printed each year and given to each child in the schools to be taken home to parents.

But, we still have to remind the schools that Black History Month comes in February *every year* — though as the Millennium begins, we are seeing hopeful signs that the history curriculum is changing.

I can only say that our task is arduous, our time is short. Cases still come to us on the island that require us to consider taking action. We are heartened that more people seem to understand the cause.

August, 2009

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BRANCH  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

FREEDOM FUND RALLY

Mrs. Medgar Evers

TABERNACLE  
OAK BLUFFS CAMPGROUND  
SUNDAY, JULY 25, 1965  
4:00 P.M.



OFFICERS:

President: Roscoe Heathman  
 Vice President: Tobey Dorsey  
 2nd Vice President: Mrs. George Tankard  
 Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Nancy Hodgson  
 Recording Secretary: Mrs. Myrna Araujo  
 Treasurer: Mrs. Philip LeVasseur

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Rev. Henry Bird  
 Mrs. Carey Gulick  
 Mrs. Roscoe Heathman  
 Dr. Milton Mazer  
 Mrs. Stanley Murphy  
 Mrs. Shirley W. Mayhew  
 Mrs. George Tankard  
 Mrs. Milton Mazer

Housing  
 Life Memberships  
 Employment  
 Political Action  
 Program and Education  
 Freedom Fund  
 Membership  
 Publicity

HONORED GUESTS:

Mr. Roger Baldwin  
 Mr. Isaac Hughes  
 Dr. S. Ralph Harlow  
 Mrs. Louis Cowan  
 Mr. Woollcott Smith  
 Mrs. Charles Tobey

Mr. L. Joseph Overton  
 Dr. Allan Butler  
 Dean Francis B. Sayre  
 Mr. Paul Chapman  
 Mr. Charles McKinney  
 Dr. Belinda Straight

MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

Mr. Kivie Kaplan

PROGRAM

Musical Prelude: Freedom Choir  
 Greeting: Roscoe Heathman  
 Invocation: The Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess  
 "America the Beautiful," 1st Verse Audience  
 Introduction of the Officers and Honored Guests: Kivie Kaplan  
 "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," 1st Verse Audience and Choir  
 Introduction of Speaker: Dr. Norman D. Fletcher  
 Guest Speaker: Mrs. Medgar W. Evers  
 Offering: Freedom Choir  
 "We Shall Overcome": Audience  
 Benediction: The Rev. Henry L. Bird

Stephanie Hugo, Piano  
 Bobby Rodgers, Choir



Emily Kaplan, Mrs. Medgar Evers, Kivie Kaplan



From archived edition: Friday, September 21, 2007

## Island to Honor Unlikely Ladies' Fight for Rights

By JULIA RAPPAPORT

On Sunday afternoon, a plaque will be unveiled in West Tisbury in celebration of a small group of town women who, nearly 50 years ago, took a little risk to play a part in a glorious, heroic and sweeping change in our national history.

It was the spring of 1964. John F. Kennedy had been assassinated and the tension of tumult in the deep South was slowly seeping into the far reaches of the country. Here on Martha's Vineyard, people had reached their breaking point. On Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was shot, a group of Vineyarders established a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Membership did not know boundaries. Blacks joined whites, men joined women, summer residents joined members of the year-round community. Among the founders were three women from West Tisbury: Nancy Hodgson Whiting, the West Tisbury librarian



Fab Five: Nancy Whiting, Peg Lillienthal, Virginia Mazer, Polly Murphy, Nancy Smith.



Children and friends of the Vineyard Five welcome them home after their night in a North Carolina jail.

and tax collector, her best friend, television writer Virginia Mazer, and Polly Murphy, a housewife. “It’s almost like a saturated solution,” Mrs. Whiting told oral historian Linsley Lee in 1993. “You know that process in chemistry? You use a vehicle of liquid and you begin to drop a substance in drop by drop, and when it holds all it can, one more drop and the whole thing crystallizes. It was like that . . . It was the gathering sense that we could be of influence.”

Among its early initiatives, the association began a drive to collect food and clothing for the people of Williamston, North Carolina. A few Vineyarders, including Rector Henry Bird of the Grace Church, had established a connection to the town and its community of black people. Come spring, the donations had to be delivered to the South. The three West Tisbury ladies, joined by Mrs. Murphy’s sister, Nancy Smith, a writer, and Margaret (Peg) Lillienthal, volunteered to load up their cars and make the drive. They traded in their up-Island jeans and donned white gloves and skirts. They figured should they find themselves in trouble, Southern men would have a harder time arresting ladies in gloves.

The women decided that while in the

South, they would register voters. “We knew it was dangerous,” Mrs. Whiting told Ms. Lee. “We didn’t know if we would come back alive. I thought it through very carefully before leaving. But quietly — I didn’t talk to anyone about it. I wound up thinking that I wouldn’t want my grandchildren to know I’d had a chance to influence people in this way and turned it down.”

The women arrived in Williamston successfully, but were unable to register a single voter. Blacks answering their doors were wary of properly dressed white women with Northern accents. Determined to show their opposition to segregation and racial inequality, the women joined a protest outside of Sears, Roebuck. The protest lasted five minutes before the ladies found themselves in handcuffs.

They spent one night in jail and, after receiving bail from the Vineyard, drove home. They declared the mission successful and so does Dr. Elaine Cawley Weintraub, a history teacher at the high school and co-founder of the African American Heritage Trail of Martha’s Vineyard, the organization hosting Sunday’s event. “They took this enormous risk that doesn’t strike us as a big risk,” said Dr.

Weintraub. “They were putting their life behind the pursuit of justice.”

Dr. Weintraub knows something about taking a risk in pursuit of justice. In the early 1990s, she was a teacher at the Oak Bluffs School. She was beginning a unit on local history and wanted to include the history of African Americans on the Island. But, when she went to the school’s library, there were no books on the subject. She went to the local bookstores and town libraries. Nothing. She knew the history was out there and so Dr. Weintraub rolled up her sleeves and got to work conducting her own research.

A few years in, someone steered her to Carrie Tankard, vice president of the Martha’s Vineyard chapter of the NAACP, who was actively, but somewhat unsuccessfully, trying to incorporate local African American history into the schools. Together, Dr. Weintraub and Mrs. Tankard established the heritage trail, a physical, hands-on way to educate the community.

In 1997, the trail began when the first plaque was unveiled in Oak Bluffs at the Shearer Cottage, the first African-American-owned guest house on the Vineyard. From there, the two charted locations or people throughout the Island that have had an impact on the Vineyard’s African American history, and the trail grew. “The things and people on the trail had a presence or made a contribution that has made a huge difference on this Island,” Dr. Weintraub said.

The two incorporated the trail into the school curriculum, making work on the trail part of a local history unit for sophomores at the high school. “For students, this really means something,” said Dr. Weintraub. “This is their Island, this is their home, this is their history.” Today, the trail has 16 sites. As of this weekend, there will be 17.

The celebration on Sunday marks the unveiling of the latest plaque and commemorates the five West Tisbury women who made the trip to Williamston. The plaque is situated outside the old West Tisbury library on Mu-



Vineyarder Kivie Kaplan, NAACP president from 1966 to 1975, with Martin Luther King Jr.

sic street, where Mrs. Whiting worked for so many years. Its message is simple. “If you let fear in,” it reads, “pretty soon, you’re all fear.” The words were spoken to the women by Sarah Small, a black women they met while in North Carolina. At 1 p.m. on Sunday, the plaque will be unveiled, followed by a brief reception at the West Tisbury Congregational Church. Dr. Weintraub said that she expected at least two of the ladies, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Murphy, to return for the unveiling. A mobile display will be up at the West Tisbury library, where it will stay for a few weeks before making its way to libraries around the Island.

Sometime this fall, the trail will unveil its 18th plaque outside of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. It will commemorate the local chapter of the NAACP. The site was chosen deliberately. The chapter had its first meeting in the church basement.

In her interviews with Ms. Lee, found in the book *Vineyard Voices*, Mrs. Whiting’s tale provides a shining example of how five little stones dropped into a pond can make a ripple that extends for miles. “There we were,” she said, “in this wild, larger-than-life kind of thing — the feeling that a person or group of people can have a real influence and effect on the course of events.”

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD NAACP ACHIEVEMENTS

The mission of the MVNAACP is to promote an inclusive environment that embraces, respects, and values the diversity in the island community. Today, we have adapted our agenda to address the civil rights issues of our time for all people: unequal education; economic and political empowerment; criminal justice reform; health-care access and quality of treatment; civic engagement and voting rights. Despite significant gains over the past 100 years, the NAACP is needed now more than ever to address the continuing and deliberate disparities.

### ***Your Martha's Vineyard Branch:***

**Successfully negotiated** several employment and housing discrimination cases before they become legal cases.

**Partnered** with Island Affordable Housing Trust to fund raise to provide affordable housing units in Oak Bluffs, MA. A permanent home (NAACP office) in the Bradley Square location will avail the MV/NAACP a constant community presence.

**Collaborated** with Vineyard organizations such as the MV Hebrew Center, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Island Diversity Council, and local police departments and banks on health, education and disparate treatment initiatives.

**Awarded** scholarships every year to Martha's Vineyard high school students who exemplify the ideals of civil rights and good citizenship.

**Received** a plaque by the New England Area Conference for outstanding



*Marie Allen*

efforts that assisted and supported the Hurricane Katrina survivors.

**Served** on Martha's Vineyard School's teacher and principal search committees.

**Worked** to increase the voter registration and turn out for local and national elections.

**Provided** spirited, culturally diverse and entertaining musical programs through the MV/NAACP Choir that educate, which inspires and adds a rich contribution to the island community and its listeners. The choir performed sacred and secular music from various cultures around the world.

**Joined** the New England Area Conference and its Branches as plaintiffs, interveners or submitted amicus briefs in a number of federal and state court cases which resulted in victories.

### *In Memoriam 2009*

*Barbara Bick · Eileen Blake  
Rosemary Davis · Ora McFarlane*

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD NAACP COMMITTEES

**Community Coordination:** shall enlist the support of community organizations on issues affecting the interests of African Americans and other communities of color.

**Education:** shall seek to eliminate segregation and other discriminatory practices in public education; study local educational conditions affecting minority groups; investigate the public school system and school zoning; familiarize itself with textbook material which is racially derogatory; seek to stimulate school attendance; keep informed of school conditions and strive to correct abuses where found; investigate the effects of standardized and high stakes testing practices; teacher certification; promote involvement in education; and aim to be a center of education on the race question and on the work of the Association.

**Freedom Fund:** shall plan and conduct fund-raising activities, advocacy, entertainment and other projects, for local and national purposes within the scope of the Association's program.

**Health:** shall work to promote, protect and maintain health care access and quality of treatment; assess the health needs of the community; advocate for equal access to health education, care, treatment and research for all Americans; sponsor health-related activities such as health forums, fairs



*Pat Mathews, former Parliamentarian*

and workshops highlighting issues of importance to people of color, and support health initiatives of the Association.

**Legal Redress:** shall investigate all cases reported to it; supervise all litigation in which the Branch is interested; and keep the Branch informed on the progress of every case. It shall not give general legal advice.

**Membership and Life Membership:** shall work throughout the year to maintain and increase the membership of the Association; be responsible for planning and organizing the annual membership campaign; be responsible on a continuous basis for soliciting new members and for securing renewals; and initiate all possible means to obtain Life Members and sponsor a continue program towards this end.

**Religious Affairs:** shall include ministerial and lay religious leaders who are members of the Unit. It shall promote an educational program to give moral and ethical interpretation to the civil rights struggle; interpret the work of the Association to organized religious groups of all faiths; enlist the support of such organized religious groups for membership, fundraising, and the struggle for equality and full civil rights; and provide resource assistance for religious education and social action activities, associated with the improvement of race relations.

**Housing:** shall study housing conditions in the local community; receive and seek to address complaints of discrimination; oppose all restrictive practices whether public or private; and disseminate information and render such other assistance which may eliminate discrimination in housing.

**Youth and Young Adults:** shall support all branch activities; stimulate interest through advocacy training and solicit youth members; create a multi-directional mentorship program to serve as support bridge from Youth and College to Branch participation; provide networking and social opportunities for youth and young adults in the local community; and encourage the participation of youth and young adults.

## SPIRIT KEEPS THE ROAD RACE RUNNING

*Martha's Vineyard Times* · September 13, 2007

By Elaine Cawley Weintraub

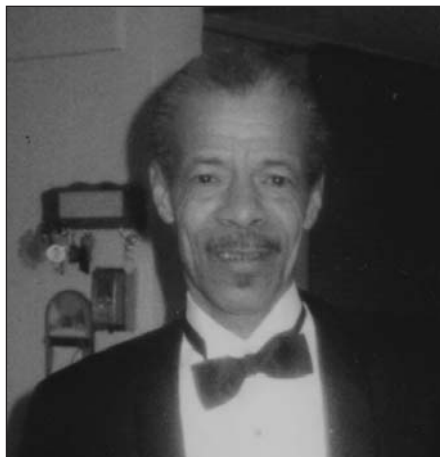
The ladies of the Martha's Vineyard chapter of the NAACP are women of substance. They can turn their hands from tasks as mundane as baking for the Christmas Bazaar to those as delicate as initiating conversations concerning equity and cultural understanding, dealing gently with those who fear to listen. Since 1964, their role has been to sustain the chapter. They organize the fund-raisers, build the coalitions, and bake those delicious cakes - all from a sense of conviction and love for the whole community. They serve without seeking personal glory, honoring with their lives the words of Dr. Martin Luther King that injustice anywhere is indeed injustice everywhere. The NAACP women are a vital and vibrant part of the community and of all our lives as they use their skills in the fields of medicine, education, entertainment, hospitality, and neighborliness.

With so much weight falling on the ladies, six years ago, the gentlemen were pressed into action to arrange the first MVNAACP Road Race. The five original organizers were George V. Tankard, Mandred Henry, Rupert Hughes, Jerry Lamb, and Oak Bluffs Selectman Roger Wey, whose 90-year-old father completed that first race. The 5K-certified race was sponsored by businesses in the community and became the event that kicked off Tivoli Day in Oak Bluffs.

It became known as a race not only for skilled aficionados of running but also for the children who loved the fun walk, and it attracted an eclectic group of runners and walkers. The serious runners won prizes, but so did those who loved to participate and had never expected to win an award for any athletic activity.

The first race was named in honor of Abraham Weintraub, then 91 years old and still running on the Island and in the New

York and London marathons. Abe is now 97 and has recently decided to retire from marathon running, but during his athletic career he was featured in the international press and has been a regular presence on the BBC's coverage of the London Marathon. Race organizers felt that Abe epitomized the value of inclusiveness that lies at the heart of the mission of the NAACP. A former postal worker who had achieved little financial prosperity in his life, Abe had begun running at the age of 80, having built up enormous strength wheeling his



*George V. Tankard, Jr.*



*Mandred T. Henry*

wife Ruth, who was suffering from Alzheimer's, around Brooklyn, New York, hoping to jog her memory with familiar sights. Following her death, Abe decided to put all that strength and sadness to good use and became a regular on the runner's circuit, even holding a world championship for his age group.

Sadly, in recent years the Vineyard and the NAACP lost two beloved personalities - George Tankard, who died in 2004, and Mandred Henry who died this year. Mr. Henry served as president of the NAACP branch for 10 years. Mr. Tankard was always active in the organization but, according to his widow Carrie Camillo Tankard, it was in a more behind-the-scenes capacity. "He did work hand in hand with Mandred when he was needed," she wrote in an e-mail to The Times. "He would always tell Mandred, 'I got your back.'" Ms. Tankard said her late husband would often help in quiet ways, like setting up for meetings or providing transportation for elderly members to events.

Mr. Henry, Ms. Tankard said, was "a true advocate for civil rights" and would go wherever he was needed, whether at a school or a jail cell. He was also active on the fund-raising committee with his wife, Laurie, especially for scholarships which the group gives each year. Dedicated to equality and to seeing the NAACP thrive, both men continued to play a crucial role in the planning process for the road race from its beginning.

Ms. Tankard related that even though they were so involved in the race, neither man was a runner. She said that her husband "didn't have an athletic bone in his body. He would rather watch the Learning Channel on TV than ANY sporting event." Mr. Henry was an avid fisherman and golfer.

Now that they are gone, the baton goes back to the ladies. This year's organizing committee includes Carrie Camillo Tankard

and Laurie Henry, carrying on in their late husbands' footsteps, as well as Carmen Amadeo and Betty Dixon. These women, with the help of Mr. Wey, have organized the sixth annual event, now named the NAACP George Tankard Jr. Memorial Road Race.

It will be held, as it is every year, as part of the Tivoli Day celebrations in Oak Bluffs this Saturday.

Not only a celebration of family and community, the race is the annual MVNAACP Freedom Fund effort, raising money through registration fees and advertising in the race journal. The journal includes endorsements and advertisements from many Island businesses and features a photograph of Mandred Henry on its cover. According to Ms. Tankard, funds raised are earmarked for the NAACP's legal and advocacy initiative expenses. The local branch also retains a portion to support it in continuing its work.

Extending an invitation to all of the community, Ms. Tankard, says that both she and Ms. Henry are honoring the work of their late husbands.

"George and Mandred knew so many people and were loved by so many, and they cared about this race," Ms. Tankard said. "We see this event as an opportunity for us all to get together in their honor and in honor of this community that they loved."

Elaine Cawley Weintraub, Board Chair of the Martha's Vineyard Black Heritage Trail and author of "Lighting the Trail" is history department chair at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Abraham Weintraub referred to in the article is her father-in-law.

*This year's 5K Walk/Run is Saturday, September 19, at 11 am; Fun Run begins at 10:30 am. Wesley Hotel, New York Ave., Oak Bluffs. 508-693-7887.*



## ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMBERSHIP/AWARDS DINNER

The Martha's Vineyard Times

January 26, 2006

### Gathering honors Dr. King

The Martha's Vineyard NAACP's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner at the Harbor View Hotel in Edgartown on Jan. 17 featured genial socializing, awards, and an inspiring keynote speech by Deborah Jackson, CEO of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay. The group received from Juan Cofield, NAACP New England Conference President, an award for raising more money for Katrina survivor relief than any other regional branch. Longtime members mingled with new recruits and community guests, and all paused together on this evening to honor the memory of Dr. King and pledge to carry on his legacy.



PHOTOS BY RALPH STEWART

Vera Shorter (left) who has been active with the local NAACP for many years, with Marie Allen, branch president since January 2005.



Former NAACP branch president Mandred Henry with his wife, Laurie Perry-Henry.



Guest speaker Deborah Jackson and NAACP New England Conference President Juan Cofield.

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### MARTHA'S VINEYARD HEBREW CENTER MLK, JR. SERVICE

About a decade ago, then President, Herb Foster, suggested that the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center congregation honor Dr. King the Friday night Shabbat service closest to Dr. King's Birthday. A new tradition was begun with members of the Hebrew Center and the Martha's Vineyard NAACP reading Dr. King's *I had a Dream Speech* at the service. Discussion was held about the Movement and the August 29, 1963, March on Washington. The evening concluded with everyone singing *We Shall Overcome*.

From that beginning, this special Shabbat service has become a truly cooperative celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Rabbi Heschel, who grew up as a Hasidic Jew in Poland, was rescued from Nazi Germany and

brought to the United States. He was a passionate advocate for Civil Rights and was called upon by Dr. King to walk side by side with him in the Selma march. Dr. King accepted an invitation to come to Rabbi Heschel's house for his family's Passover Seder. Just days before that seder, Dr. King was assassinated. At the service we honor two leaders, two prophetic voices in America, and two friends. Presently, the service is advertised annually and members from the Island community join members from the MV NAACP and the MV Hebrew Center in memorializing and honoring King and Heschel. Those attending join in discussion concerning the March, the Movement, and conclude the service singing from a songbook from the March on Washington.



## NAACP OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

P.O. Box 1513 - Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Telephone: (508) 696-5785

[www.marthasvineyardnaacp.org](http://www.marthasvineyardnaacp.org) – [www.NAACP.org](http://www.NAACP.org)

June 8, 2009

NEAC Awards Committee  
Ms. Marie B. Allen, Chair  
Janet Johnson  
Freddie Ross

Re: NEAC Living Legend Award

Dear NEAC Awards Committee:

The Executive Committee of the Martha's Vineyard Branch of the NAACP enthusiastically and unanimously supports and recommends Ms. Vera Shorter for the Living Legend Award.

**Vera Shorter** came to Martha's Vineyard in 1976 with her husband Rufus Shorter, who came as Superintendent of the Martha's Vineyard Public schools. She left her job as Equal Opportunity Officer of Manhattan District, Internal Revenue Service. Over the last 33 years she has become a significant and influential civil rights activist, civic and community leader on the Island.

She has been a member of the Executive Committee of the MV/NAACP Branch, a member of the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee to the Vineyard schools, and a board member of the Nathan Mayhew Seminars. Nathan Mayhew Seminars provides courses of study in the liberal arts, the performing arts, social and Physical sciences, vocational arts and skills, and physical education. She has also served as a Board member to the M.V. Hospital and Community Services and Island Theatre Workshop. She has also volunteered her time to assist senior citizens in tax preparation.

### **Exemplary support to the NAACP**

She has been called a "leader who's willing to serve" –efficiently, energetically, compassionately and with seeming unquenchable depths of understanding, with the rare ability to listen, support and counsel. The leader who serves – serves people, serves their best interests, and in doing so will not always be popular or may not always impress. But because she is motivated by loving concern rather than a desire for personal glory, she is willing to pay the price. Her sense of humor, political savvy and deep thinking make her an omnipresent soldier in the struggle for equality on many fronts.

Remaining an active member on the MV/NAACP Executive Committee at 86 years young, her years of life experience and learning have developed her heart, mind and spirit as a great leader.

Vera is a person of such stature, demonstrated ability and renown that youth and members alike will take pride in and be inspired by her recognition of accomplishments that reflect admirably on and bring honor to the Branch. She has laid the foundation for present and future leaders in the battle for human rights.

### **Commitment to the NAACP**

Throughout her decades of outstanding involvement and dedication, she has made a significant contribution of leadership and service which has improved or enriched the lives of others and the welfare of humanity.

Ms. Shorter has chaired events, written articles, done publicity, and honed her skills at putting out fires before they happen. She has been and is a consistent warrior for social justice.

Has served under the leadership of seven chapter Presidents and was recognized through a special tribute at the 2008 MLK brunch for consistent service above and beyond the call of duty on the grassroots level.

**Accomplishments achieved during NAACP involvement**

- When she received the first Humanitarian Award from the Island's NAACP branch in 1994— President Mandred Henry said that the award to Vera Shorter was “for service to the whole community and not just to the NAACP.” The Humanitarian award was created to recognize outstanding individuals who dedicate their time to fighting indifference, intolerance and injustice and whose accomplishments are consistent with the goals of the Organization.
- Chair of Affirmative Action Committee, in which she was instrumental in bringing the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Martha's Vineyard/Woods Hole Steamship Authority into compliance.
- Member of Concerned Citizen group to have MV/NAACP representation on M. V. Public School's teacher and principal search teams.
- Public Relations consultant to the NEA and MV/NAACP conference.
- Chaired various committees including Freedom Fund and Martin Luther King Award Dinners.
- First editor of MV/NAACP's Newsletter.

We believe Vera Shorter is an invaluable asset to the Martha's Vineyard NAACP's important mission, and we respectfully urge the Awards Committee to support her as our recommendation for the NEAC Living Legend Award.

Respectfully,

*Laurie Perry-Henry*

Laurie Perry-Henry  
MV/NAACP President

Cc: MV/NAACP Executive Committee



## JUNETEENTH: ANOTHER INDEPENDENCE DAY

“Juneteenth is the celebration of African American freedom and achievement and the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19<sup>th</sup> that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation – which had become official on January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger’s regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance”. Texas became the last state to learn of the confederate surrender and the freeing of slaves.

June 19<sup>th</sup> which was shortened to “Juneteenth” among celebrants, has become the African American addendum to our national Independence Day. The Emancipation Proclamation did not bring about emancipation, and the prevailing portrayal of Independence Day ignores the ignominious incidence of slavery entirely. Although initially associated with Texas and other Southern states, the Civil Rights Era and the Poor People’s March to Washington in 1968, in particular, helped spread the tradition all across America. Typical activities included prayer, speeches, recitation of slave stories, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, dances, games and plenty of food.

The state of Texas made Juneteenth an official state holiday on January 1, 1980

and several states have since issued proclamations recognizing the holiday. Juneteenth is promoted not only as a commemoration of African American freedom, but as an example and encouragement of self-development and respect for all cultures.

For all its historical past and cultural significance, today African Americans are looking to change their future rather than focus on the past. The National Association of the NAACP is embracing that very mindset and is focusing on economic and social justice issues building upon the civil rights struggles of the past. Juneteenth is a day of reflection, a day of renewal, a pride-filled day. It is a moment in time taken to appreciate the African American experience. It is inclusive of all races, ethnicities and nationalities. Juneteenth is a day on which honor and respect is paid for the sufferings of slavery. It is a day on which we acknowledge the evils of slavery and its aftermath. We think about that moment in time when the enslaved in Galveston, Texas received word of their freedom. We imagine the depth of their emotions who had only known America as a place of servitude and oppression, their jubilant dance and their fear of the unknown.

On Juneteenth celebrations are held for the young and old to come together to listen, to learn and to refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we all take one step closer together, to better utilize the energy wasted on racism. This is the day that beckons us to build a more just society. Juneteenth is a day that we pray for peace and liberty for all.

—Laurie Perry-Henry

## BRADLEY SQUARE Masonic and Dukes County Avenue, Oak Bluffs, MA



*102 years ago, Reverend Oscar E. Denniston, a minister originally from the West Indies, renamed a small missionary in the heart of Oak Bluffs after its founder and his mentor, Susan Bradley, and started the first African-American church on Martha's Vineyard. For over a half-century, the Bradley Memorial Church was the center of black heritage and culture on Martha's Vineyard. Although Rev. Denniston became so popular that a summer church was added to handle the congregation as Denniston enjoyed immense popularity and respect on the Island, it was this year-round church that was considered an integral piece of what made Oak Bluffs the capital of black summer life throughout the country. The church provided spiritual guidance, religious education, community development, social life, and involvement in humanitarian causes from 1907-1966. The church has been featured in documentaries and is part of the Martha's Vineyard African-American Heritage Trail.*

### **NAACP AND BRADLEY SQUARE TEAM UP Organization to Have Permanent Home at Historic Site**

VINEYARD HAVEN – Today, leaders of both the Island Affordable Housing Fund (IAHF) and the Martha's Vineyard NAACP (MV/NAACP) announced an historic pact which layers yet another organization's involvement in the Bradley Square affordable housing/historic restoration project that is located in the heart of Oak Bluffs' Arts District. The Bradley Square project was recently presented to the MV/NAACP Executive Committee and general membership and received its unanimous approval to support the

project and partner with the IAHF to complete the 1.7 million fundraising goal that is left to raise. This represents less than 30 percent of the total 5.1 million project. In turn, the MV/NAACP will have a permanent home in the former Bradley Memorial Church, the first African-American church on the Island.

“To say that we are happy about this partnership would be a great understatement, said Pat Manning, Executive Director of the IAHF. The MV/NAACP has been an ardent and persistent advocate on behalf of this project through their participation in all aspects of the design. It only makes sense that this project concludes with a permanent residence for this august organization in a building that means so much to African-American history on our Island.”

Closed for two generations and in a state of disrepair, the Bradley Memorial Church and the land around it was purchased by the Island Affordable Housing Fund, a 501c3 non-profit that is the fundraising arm of affordable housing on Martha's Vineyard, to save the structure from being torn down.

After almost a two-years of work to receive the necessary permits, the Housing Fund, in partnership with the NAACP of Martha's Vineyard and Island artists, now set their sights on restoring the grand building, allowing for a multi-use cultural space downstairs in the restored church sanctuary, adding the new offices of the MV/NAACP, and creating an affordable housing unit in the former Denniston family quarters above.

The site also allows for the addition of two other buildings that will house seven additional affordable housing units, two additional work/live spaces that will be suitable for Island artists, spurring the growth of the *Arts District* which the property is located in, and one strictly commercial market-rate gallery space. Pockets of green and ample off-street parking will surround this community of pedestrian-friendly public spaces and home sites. All of this will be done following the Island Housing Trust's, green-building standards. These energy efficiencies will keep the units affordable to families even after they move in. Finally, the land underneath the affordable housing will be stewarded by the Island Housing Trust guaranteeing that the homes stay affordable forever.

— March 17, 2008, Pat Manning, IAHF

# Three Women Honored by NAACP

By MEGAN DOOLEY

They are affectionately referred to as long-distance runners. Combined, Carrie Tankard, Marie Araujo and Lorna Andrade have provided over 85 years of service to the Martha's Vineyard branch of the NAACP. At noon today, the organization will honor the women for their marathon of service to the Island branch, which is one of the most active and diverse in the country.

"These [are] three outstanding ladies who gave of themselves to help others," said Marie Allen, first vice president of the Vineyard NAACP.

The women will be honored at a luncheon at the Grill restaurant in Edgartown. The luncheon will begin with an invocation by the Rev. Marcia Buckley, an executive committee member of the branch, followed by a greeting from Vineyard chapter NAACP president Laurie Perry-Henry. Ms. Allen will have the pleasure of introducing the honorees to the guests to recognize the women's remarkable contribution to the organization, both locally and nationwide.

"No branch can survive without the dedication and commitment of its officers, executive committee members, and members. The Martha's Vineyard branch has fulfilled all requirements thanks to the committed service of these ladies, and that's why we're honoring them," said Ms. Allen.

Carrie Tankard decided to join the NAACP as soon as she relocated with her family to the Vineyard in 1967. They were living in New Jersey when dangerous riots broke out, forcing the family to seek a safer home. Mrs. Tankard and her late husband brought their six children to live on the Island because they had relatives living here. She worked as a dental assistant, and used much of her free time for the NAACP. She has since served

under eight branch presidents, first as secretary, then as first vice president for 35 years. This year, Mrs. Tankard is active as the second vice president. "Carrie has been an invaluable asset to the branch," said Ms. Allen. "She has served on the scholarship committee, she has chaired Kwanzaa and the Martin Luther King Jr. membership and awards dinner, the holiday bazaar, and provided black history exhibits to the schools," she said, naming a few of the contributions. Mrs. Tankard works closely with the NAACP's Freedom Fund, which helps organize fundraisers for the program. In 2005, she announced in the Gazette that the annual Freedom Fund 5K road race had been renamed the George V. Tankard Jr. Memorial Road Race in memory of her late husband.

Mrs. Tankard has been recognized for her service before. In 1991, she was the recipient of the family membership certificate, awarded by the NAACP national membership director, for enrolling 15 of her family members in the organization. She was also honored with an unsung hero award by the New England Area Conference of Branches in 2006.

Mrs. Tankard named the contributions that she considers most important in her years as an NAACP member:

"We were very instrumental in getting affirmative action programs in the hospitals, the high school, and the Steamship Authority. We have also done many things with other organizations on the Island like the Hebrew Center and Island Housing, and we give scholarships to deserving seniors each year," she said.

She said she remains an active NAACP member because it keeps her motivated. "Especially now, since I'm retired and my children have grown up. It keeps me involved with the community," she said.

Another honoree is Marie Araujo, a geriatrics nurse who currently serves as nursing supervisor at the Windemere Long Term Care and Rehabilitation Facility in Oak Bluffs.

Mrs. Araujo served for 15 years as the Martha's Vineyard NAACP branch treasurer. She also served as chief fi-

nancial officer and as chairman of the finance committee. According to Ms. Allen, it is Mrs. Araujo's meticulous approach to the branch's finances that has earned her a seat of honor at the luncheon. "She was very conscientious in executing financial reports to the executive committee," said Ms. Allen. "She always submitted the required reports, the year-end financial reports, to the national office before they were due."

Dr. Lorna Andrade, the third honoree at today's luncheon, is being honored for her service as an executive committee member in various positions, namely as the second vice president. "She is a well-known member of many Vineyard committees and has served on many Island boards," said Ms. Allen. "As far as the branch is concerned, she has served under five presidents. Presently she is a member, but we are honoring her for her past service. Her service to the Martha's Vineyard branch has been extensive."

Mrs. Andrade, a registered nurse and PhD, was also appointed by the Dukes County Commissioners as branch representative for the Dukes County Health Council, a position she maintained for eight years. She has chaired various branch committees, and founded the Vineyard NAACP Spirituals Choir.

"Because she is such a longtime member of the branch, she is very knowledgeable about our history, and she's been very helpful in making suggestions about events and that kind of thing," said Ms. Allen.

Today, the Vineyard NAACP will have the chance to show its gratitude for so many years with such committed women. "We are honoring them because they have given themselves to help others, and for their extraordinary service," said Ms. Allen.

"I'm a little excited," said Mrs. Tankard about being honored by her friends and committee members. "It's nice to be honored, especially when your family tells you you've done good. That makes it special. And I feel as though they are family. Many of us have been together a long, long time."



*Carrie Tankard, Dr. Lorna Andrade, Marie Araujo*

Ninety MV/NAACP members and supporters attended the luncheon given in honor of their three longtime volunteers, Dr. Lorna Andrade, Marie Araujo and Carrie Tankard at the Grill on Main in Edgartown on Tuesday, July 28, 2009. The three honorees received corsages of yellow orchids and red roses. They were surprised with bouquets of flowers given by, Alex Palmer, a long time member, who was not able to attend the affair. Branch President, Laurie Perry-Henry welcomed the attendees and gave a speech on the relevancy of the NAACP. First Vice President, Marie Allen introduced each honoree and described their individual contributions to the MV/NAACP and the island community. Pastor Marcia Buckley gave the invocation and then the attendees dined on food excellently prepared by staff of the Grill on Main.

Following lunch, each honoree received a copy of the *NAACP: Celebrating a Century, 100 Years in Pictures*. Vera Shorter was surprised as she received an award for being named a Living Legend by the Northeast Area Conference. Carrie Tankard expressed her appreciation for being honored, saying “Thanks for the wonderful gift we received of the book The NAACP’s First 100 years. It will be a welcomed treasure to my book case.” The Branch’s youngest supporter in attendance was three year old Nikeya Tankard, granddaughter of Carrie Tankard and daughter of Craig and Anu Tankard, who wore a traditional Nepalese dress and graciously shook each adult’s hand as it was offered. The MV/NAACP branch can be sure its commitment will be carried on in younger generations!

—Rhonda Iris Cohen



*From top left: Carmen Amadeo, Curt Gear, Herb Foster, Betty Joslow & Rhoda Diamond, Hester Boxill, Tony Saccoccia*

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

The Martha's Vineyard branch of the NAACP sponsors an annual Holiday Bazaar, in December at the Oak Bluffs School. We have participation from vendors offering jewelry, art, hand crafted items and more.

With Vera Shorter at the helm, our baked goods tables are always a favorite with all that attend. Ken Gross takes ownership of the hot dogs, coffee and soda table. We also have a silent auction and raffle, run by President, Laurie Perry Henry, featuring

items generously donated by local merchants. The bazaar began as a fundraiser to offset the expenses incurred for our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. event is our annual membership drive and is not a fundraiser.

The Holiday Bazaar is always an enjoyable afternoon and continues to be a very successful event for the Branch.

— Carrie B. Tankard/Chair

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## KWANZA CELEBRATION



Every December Kwanzaa is celebrated in many parts of the United States. In 1966, Dr. Maulana Karenga created this unique holiday to affirm the cultural history and the values of African family life as part of African-American heritage.

Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called “The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa.” These seven principles comprise *Kawida*, a Swahili term for tradition and reason. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the following principles, as follows:

*Umoja* (Unity) to strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

*Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination) to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

*Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility) to build and maintain our community together and make our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our problems and to solve them together.

*Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics) to build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

*Nia* (Purpose) to make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

*Kuumba* (Creativity) to do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to

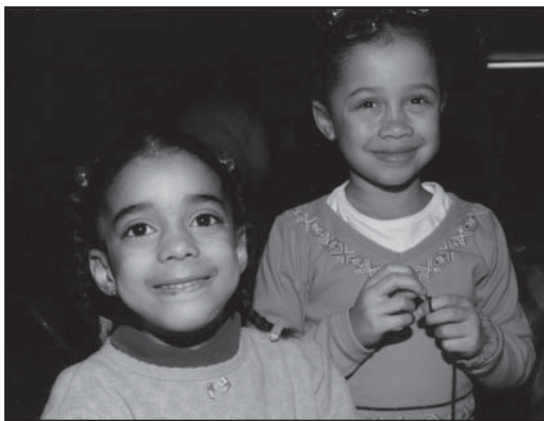


leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

*Imani* (Faith) to believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

The MV/NAACP Branch hosted Kwanzaa in 2008 at the Trinity United Methodist Parish Hall in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts on December 27th. Members of the Branch and their families joined with friends and guests in what turned out to be a most festive occasion. Prior to a sumptuous potluck meal organized by Branch member Mr. Kenneth Gross, everyone joined in singing Civil Rights songs accompanied by Mr. Howie Marlin on his guitar. The spirit continued as participants sang out their favorite tunes while others lent their voices to sing solo. African inspired and childhood games, coloring and pasting of Kwanzaa symbols, the making of the Mkeka or place mat, along with an African folk tale written and performed by Mrs. Barbara Linton delighted all.

Mrs. Carrie B. Tankard led the gathering, as she does every year, in the recitation of the Kwanzaa principles and the lighting of the seven candles of the Kinara. She raised the Unity Cup the *Kikombe Cha Umoja* wishing all present oneness of spirit. Mrs. Vera Shorter also remarked on the diversity of our inter-generational gathering and thanked everyone for coming. The group applauded Reverend Richard Regal and the Trinity United Methodist Church for their kindness in lending the hall.



Families celebrating Kwanzaa decorate their households with objects of art, colorful African cloth, especially the wearing of kaftans by women, and fresh fruits that represent African idealism. It is customary to include children in Kwanzaa ceremonies and to give respect and gratitude to ancestors. Libations are shared, generally with a common chalice, "*Kikombe cha Umoja*" passed around to all celebrants. Non-African Americans also celebrate Kwanzaa. A Kwanzaa ceremony may include drumming and musical selections, libations, a reading of the "African Pledge" and the Principles of Blackness, reflection on the Pan-African colors, a discussion of the African principle of the day or a chapter in African history, a candle-lighting ritual, artistic performance, and, finally, a feast (*Karamu*). The greeting for each day of Kwanzaa is "Habari Gani which is Swahili for "What's the News?"

Today, many African-American families celebrate Kwanzaa along with Christmas and New Year's. Frequently, both Christmas trees and *kinaras*, the traditional candle holder symbolic of African-American roots, share space in kwanzaa celebrating households.

—Laurie Perry-Henry, Barbara Linton

## MV NAACP CHOIR



*Larry P. Watson, Choir Director*

The mission of the MV/NAACP choir is to provide year-round spirited, culturally diverse and entertaining musical programs that educate, inspire and add a rich contribution to the island community and our listeners. The choir performs sacred and secular music from various cultures around the world. Our stimulating repertoire will flow from the African Diaspora with particular emphasis on gospel, vocal jazz, original compositions, cabaret music, Motown, classical arias, and spirituals.



*NAACP Choir singing at Juneteenth, 2008*

The twenty members of the choir are island residents, intergenerational, unpaid and are committed to providing cultural awareness through hard work, dedication and excellence. They pay attention to the musical score and convey not only the letter and spirit but also its many levels of meaning and context. The Choir is led by its nationally and internationally known music director, Lawrence Watson, a professor of music at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. Visit his website at [www.saveourselvesproductions.com](http://www.saveourselvesproductions.com).

We depend on support from individuals, businesses, and foundations to be able to serve the community. Your contributions enable the choir to provide the best possible concert spaces, marketing, soloists and instrumentalists for your enjoyment. Choir sponsors receive wide recognition in concert programs and mailings as well as marketing materials, and press releases, unless anonymity is requested.

### **Your donations will support:**

Educational forums on the history of African descent music and cultural expression

- Professional staff compensation
- Expanded marketing program to increase our outreach to the community
- Administrative costs to coordinate concerts and sound equipment
  - Workshops for children's voice instruction
  - Limited sponsor requested private events
  - Transportation and accommodations for appearances at off-island events.

The MV/NAACP choir is a labor of love. Your gift will enable us to continue our musical success. It takes a village to raise a choir!!

Call 508-696-5785 for bookings and check website [www.mvnaacp.org](http://www.mvnaacp.org) for upcoming performances.

## LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

The Negro National Anthem

Lift ev'ry voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty:  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling seas.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod.  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light.  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee,  
Shadowed beneath, Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God  
True to our native land.

Words by James Weldon Johnson

Music by Rosamond Johnson

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## MV AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL



*Senator Edward W. Brooks III dedication*

The African American Heritage Trail of Martha's Vineyard was established in 1998 with the dedication of the Shearer Cottage in the Highlands area of Oak Bluffs as the first site on the Trail. Shearer, the first African American owned guesthouse, open to people of color on the island, was in many ways a most appropriate choice to launch the Trail.

The story of the family of Charles and Henrietta Shearer exemplified the African American experience through enslavement to the inspiring story of a family working together to create an inn and achieve success. The Shearer is still owned and operated by Charles and Henrietta granddaughter, Doris Jackson and her daughter, Lee Van Allen. Since 1998, twenty one more sites have been dedicated and the Trail now stretches across the entire island telling a tangible story of the contributions made by people of color to the history of this island. From Chappaquiddick, where the island's only African American whaling captain lived on the Native plantation there, to Aquinnah where a group of Native Americans made the choice to resist an unfair law, decline a bounty payment and save the live of a fugitive during the years of the second Fugitive Slave Act, the story of people of color is told by a series of plaques creating a physi-

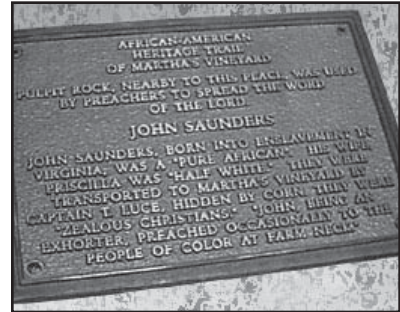
cal Trail across the Vineyard.

The most recent plaques placed by the board of the African American Heritage Trail are at St. Andrews Episcopal church in Edgartown where the first meetings of the NAACP on Martha's Vineyard were held, at the superintendent of schools office in Vineyard Haven where the names of three educators who broke barriers by being the first people of color to hold their position are recorded and at the home of Dorothy West on Myrtle Avenue in the Highlands area of Oak Bluffs. There are several projects underway including the development of a site in Vineyard Haven to honor the achievements of Barber Hammond, an African American man, who owned and operated a barbers' shop in Vineyard Haven, the search for information on Kitty Knox, a young woman of color from Cambridge, Massachusetts who cycled in the bike races held on East Chop in the early years of the 20th century and an attempt to secure the former home of Captain William Martin on Chappaquiddick.

The student work from the high school sophomore class has continued and this years' projects are on display at the Vineyard



*Brian Scott at Pulpit Rock*



Museum. The annual Heritage Trail event for the entire sophomore class was held in October, 2008 and for the first time was arranged in coordination with the Wampanoag Tribe. The students were entertained to a superb lunch of traditional African American food cooked by Christie Moreis and several members of the Tribal

administration met with the students and shared stories. It was a great day and one we plan to repeat in October, 2009.

The Heritage Trail is always looking for volunteers to work with us on publicizing our mission and we welcome everyone to share with us in this important work.

## CAN WE SAVE THE CAPT. MARTIN HOME?

*History remains hidden on Chappaquiddick.*

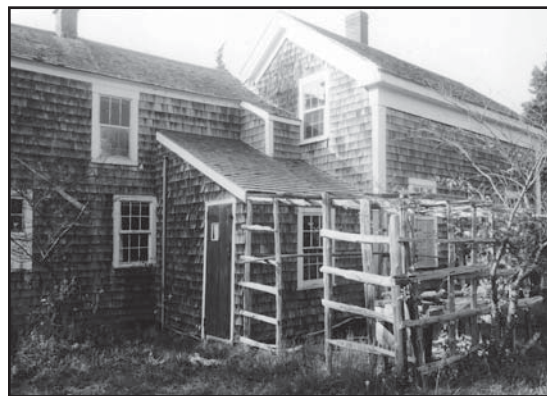
Tucked off the main road on Chappaquiddick, hidden behind loose overgrowing brush just past the chappy store, stands one of the most historic landmarks on Martha's Vineyard. It's virtually unknown, unmarked. A photographer making pictures of this home was asked by passersbys: why are you doing that?

The answer is that this was the home of the one of the first African-American sea captains in American history, William A. Martin, the great grandson of an enslaved woman from Guinea in Africa and the grandson of Edgartown wise woman Nancy Michael, William Martin rose to prominence as the island's only whaling captain of color. In a time when black history is hitting a forefront in the United States, the ownership and condition of this remarkable building is of utter importance. This house tells a vital part of the story.

The building itself is in fairly good shape, although it looks a bit dilapidated and run down, its roof covered by a fading threading tarpaulin. Yet the facade, the windows, the doors, the walkways, and the ancient

wooden planks that Captain Martin and his wife, Sarah Brown, tread upon are still there.

The property, currently owned by Dr. Tom Doyle, of Rhode island is now for sale. The question is: how can we as a community gather to purchase, renovate, and celebrate a veritable museum of Black history? Join the African American Heritage Trail in our quest to save and celebrate the Island's history. Call 508-693-4361 for tour information.



*Captain Martin House*

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

### *Rocco Monto Sports Medicine Foundation Scholarship*

- 2001 — Liane E. Dixon — Northeastern University  
2003 — Dan Greenberg — Bucknell University  
2004 — Sudarra White — St. Johns University  
2005 — Sarah Greenberg — Tufts University  
2006 — Morgan Ibarondo — Brandeis University

### *Kivie and Emily Kaplan Scholarship*

- 2001 — Shannon Rand-Ray — Bennington College

### *James and Maggie Alston Scholarship*

- 2001 — Shannon Rand-Ray — Bennington College  
2006 — Alex Parker — Emory University

### *MV/NAACP Memorial Scholarship*

- 2001 — Shannon Rand—Ray — Bennington College  
2003 — Dan Greenberg — Bucknell University  
Ian Minor — Culinary Arts School  
2004 — Sudarra White — St. Johns University  
2005 — Sarah Greenberg — Tufts University  
Amber Redding — Johnson and Wales  
2006 — Morgan Ibarondo — Brandeis University  
Grace Burton-Sundman — St. Lawrence University  
Alex Parker — Emory University  
2007 — Stephen Greenberg — Boston College  
Alexis Moreis — Brown University  
2008 — Melora Armstead — Northeastern University  
Jaron Chaplin — UMass Amherst  
Keisha Jette — Suffolk University  
Kenneth Watkins — Johnson and Wales  
2009 — No Awards

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*The Centennial Journal Committee*

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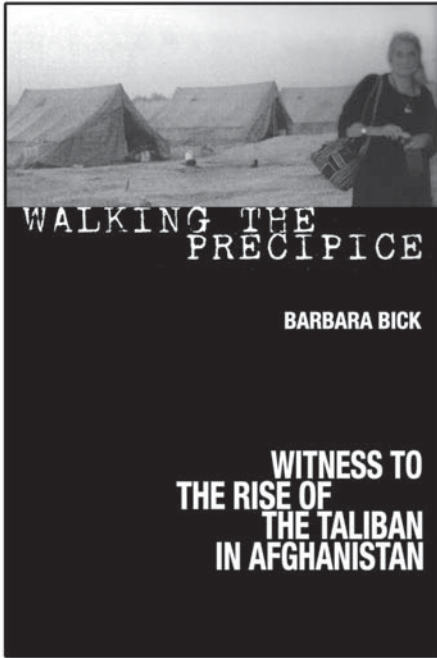
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A memoir by the only 76 year-old Jewish female NAACP Member in Afghanistan on September 11, 2001

Barbara Bick, lifelong peacenik and civil rights activist, went with friends to Afghanistan in 1990 on a whim.

Her experiences there led her to work for the rights of Afghan women just as she had once organized to support the freedom struggles of African Americans, and the people of Vietnam.

Returning in 2001 she was in the compound where Ahmad Shah Massoud, the leader of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance, was murdered by Al Qaeda thugs on Sept. 9. As Afghanistan once again comes to dominate the news, Barbara's book is an essential read in trying to comprehend this on-going tragedy.

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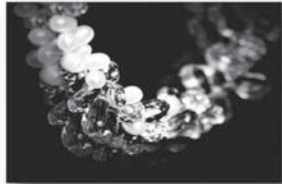
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*Pastor Marcia Buckley is a native of Martha's Vineyard ministering for 30 years. She is diligently working on obtaining a permanent place of worship. During the summer season our congregation meets every Sunday at 10 am in Waban Park.*

*We welcome you to join us.*

*We gratefully accept contributions towards our building fund.\*

*God bless you!*

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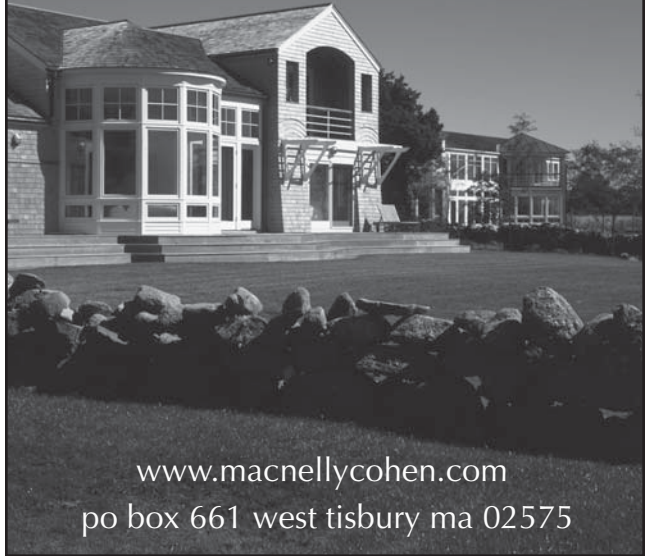
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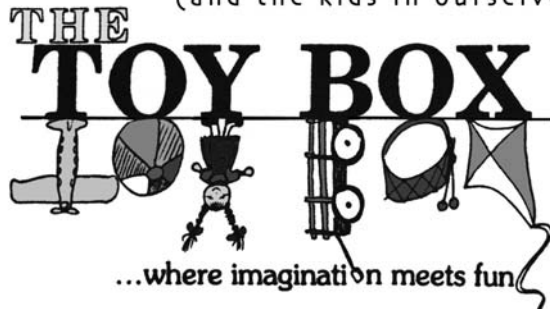
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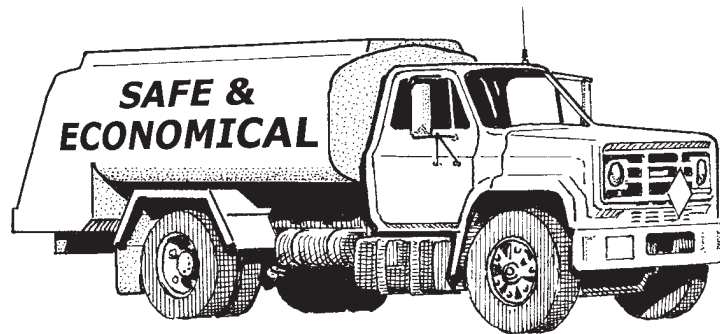
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