

20TH BLACK NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 23 & 24 2026



SHAPING TOMORROW

BLACK AUTONOMY IN AN
AGE OF ERASURE

Friday & Saturday
October 23-24, 2026

Keynote Address by
JOY-ANN REID



Lunchtime Address by

GEORGE "CONSCIOUS" LEE JR.



RESIST ERASURE. RECLAIM POWER.

SHAPE TOMORROW.



"All that you touch You Change.
All that you Change Changes you.
The only lasting truth is Change."

— from *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler

*Proud to support the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire
and the 2026 Black New England Conference.*

EVERSOURCE

Eversource.com

BLACK NEW ENGLAND
CONFERENCE

20TH

ANNUAL

BHTNH.ORG

We elevate & empower
people of color in New
Hampshire by fostering
connections, changing
systems, & meeting
community needs to
make a better Granite
State where all belong.

GET INVOLVED: [NHCJE.ORG](https://nhcje.org)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

We want New Hampshire to be a
community where everyone can thrive.

The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation is honored to support
the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and its 20th Annual Black
New England Conference so we can all continue to learn about our shared
history and build a more inclusive New Hampshire community today.

The Foundation is committed to advancing equity, racial justice
and economic security — to help make New Hampshire a
community where we can all thrive, together.

37 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH | 603-225-6641 | www.nhcf.org

Welcome



On behalf of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire Board of Directors, the conference planning committee, our partners, staff, and volunteers, we welcome you to the 20th Annual Black New England Conference. For two decades, we've explored the intersection of Black life and various concepts, whether science, gender, representation, or politics for engaging community dialogues. This year's theme, *Shaping Tomorrow: Black Autonomy in an Age of Erasure* invites us to consider what autonomy has meant throughout Black history and what it requires of us today.

For Black communities in America, the pursuit of autonomy has long existed alongside efforts to erase or diminish Black history, culture, and voices. In response, Black people have continually asserted their right to self-determination by shaping their own narratives, preserving cultural heritage, and claiming greater economic, civic, and political power. In this context, autonomy is both a necessity and a declaration.

Over the course of this conference, scholars, activists, artists, and community leaders will examine those histories while asking what they can teach us about the present and the future. How do communities protect their stories when history itself is contested? How do we ensure that Black voices are not merely included in conversations about the future, but actively help shape it?

As we celebrate twenty years of the Black New England Conference, we are reminded that this gathering itself is part of that work: creating space for scholarship, conversation, and the preservation and sharing of Black history. We look forward to the thoughtful discussions, challenging ideas, and new connections that will emerge throughout the conference.

Thank you for joining us. Your presence, perspective, and participation continue to make the Black New England Conference a meaningful space to examine our history and imagine what comes next.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JerriAnne Boggis". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' and 'B'.

JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director BHTNH



The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire (BHTNH) promotes awareness and appreciation of African American history to build healthy, more inclusive communities across the Granite State. We are committed to telling these stories with accuracy and care, ensuring that the resilience, creativity, and struggles of African Americans are recognized as a vital part of New Hampshire's past and present.

A LEGACY WITH STATEWIDE IMPACT

Founded by cultural historian and civil rights activist Valerie Cunningham, the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail has grown over three decades into the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. Today, with dozens of historic markers across the state—and more being added each year—the Trail uncovers stories that honor the contributions of Black men, women, and families who helped shape New Hampshire's history.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

This year was remarkable for the Trail, with national attention surrounding the unveiling of our **Ona Judge Mural**. Looking ahead, BHTNH is deepening its commitment to innovation and community engagement. Upcoming initiatives include:

- **Sankofa EX** - Our digital museum **EX**perience at the African Burying Ground in Portsmouth has expanded to a second site at the Ona Judge Mural.
- **Expanding Historic Markers** - We continue adding new sites throughout New Hampshire, broadening public access to stories that reveal the state's diverse and complex history.
- **Curriculum Development** - Amplify New Hampshire's Black History through developing educational resources & professional development opportunities for educators, deepening historical understanding and fostering a stronger sense of belonging for all.

With a focus on creating opportunities where history is not only remembered but experienced in vivid, powerful ways, **the Trail's work has never been more vital**. By celebrating the past, engaging the present, and imagining the future, we strive to build communities rooted in truth and resilience.

For more information, please visit bhtnh.org.

**Meet the
5 to Know**





BLM NH Divisions

Youth & Young Adult Division • Mutual Aid & Community Supports • Early Care & Education • Justice & Advocacy • Black Maternal Health • Culture & Community

Across all our divisions, we center Black & Brown voices and build pathways to equity, care, and opportunity. We believe that when Black & Brown communities are supported, celebrated, and empowered, our entire state moves forward. Liberation is not for one, it is for all.

To learn more about Black Lives Matter New Hampshire, please visit our website at blmnh.org or scan the QR code.



Empowering LGBTQIA+ Youth Across New Hampshire.

Scan to see upcoming events!

With peer to peer support groups in:

- Laconia
- Manchester
- Nashua
- Portsmouth
- Upper Valley



What We Do.



Youth/YA Groups



GSA Network



Caregiver Support



Education & Advocacy

@outright_pride

nhoutright.org

2026 Black New England Conference Schedule

Friday, October 23rd

The Black New England Conference kicks off with a **series of bus tours**.



8:30 AM

Never Caught: The Washingtons & Ona Marie Judge
Portsmouth Tour with Sankofa Scholar Sonya Arroyo

9:00 AM

Harriet E. Wilson and the Abolition Movement
Milford Tour with Sankofa Scholar David Nelson



9:30 AM

**Building Black Enterprise: Economic Autonomy in
Manchester**
Manchester Tour with Sankofa Scholars
Nur Shoop & Barbara Ward



University of
New Hampshire

We are proud sponsors of the
20th Annual Black New England Conference

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Center for New England Culture
Inclusive Excellence

2026 Black New England Conference Schedule

Friday, October 23

SNHU Millyard Building, 75 S. Commercial St. Manchester, NH

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Registration Opens - Luncheon

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM

**Panel 1: Narrating Black Identity, Memory,
and Cultural Survival**

In honor of Arturo Schomburg



Who has the authority to tell Black stories, and what is at stake when people erase, distort, or silence them? The struggle for autonomy begins with the power to define oneself. Through literature, oral tradition, archives, museums, education, visual art, and public history, Black communities have preserved memory, affirmed identity, and safeguarded cultural inheritance across generations. This panel asks who we are and examines how storytelling itself becomes an act of resistance, ensuring that Black history, creativity, and lived experience remain visible, truthful, and enduring.

Presenters:

- **Eboné Bell:** *Black History is American History.*
- **Netzayet Jones:** *The Way We Are Held.*
- **Dennis Austin Britton:** *Black Pietá: Revisualizing the Crucifixion & Affirming the Sanctity of Black Life in Visual Art.*

Moderator:

- **Kevin Pajaro-Mariñez,** Assistant Director of Equity and Inclusion, Phillips Exeter Academy

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Panel 2: Building Black Institutions as Sites of Power

In honor of Ella Baker



What have we built? When traditional institutions excluded Black communities, Black leaders built their own. Churches, schools, businesses, newspapers, advocacy organizations, and cultural institutions became places where leadership was cultivated, knowledge preserved, and collective power exercised. Today, those institutions continue to serve as engines of resilience, innovation, and transformation while confronting new political and social challenges. This panel explores what it takes not only to create Black institutions but to sustain and strengthen them as foundations for future generations.

Presenters:

- **Dottie Morris:** *Ancestral Wisdom, Memory, and Storytelling: Antidotes for Erasure.*
- **Lisa Jones:** *The Power of Showing Up: Building Community Where It Is Least Expected.*
- **Jason Armstrong:** *From Ferguson to the Future: Rebuilding Institutional Trust as an Act of Black Autonomy.*

Moderator:

- **Dennis Kurt Creary,** CEO of Blacks on Wall Street, Inc.

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

BNEC After Hours - Said What we Said

Podcast recording with Lionel Loveless & Tanisha Johnson

BNEC After Hours will feature honest reflections on the day's conversations, audience engagement, music by DJ MAM, and appetizers by Crowne Catering. Come ready to reflect, connect, laugh, and keep the conversation going.

2026 Black New England Conference Schedule

Saturday, October 24

SNHU Millyard Building, 75 S. Commercial St. Manchester, NH

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

**Panel 3: Freedom, Wealth, Ownership,
and Collective Prosperity**

In honor of Maggie Lena Walker



Economic autonomy has long been central to Black freedom movements. From mutual aid societies and cooperative enterprises to homeownership, entrepreneurship, and community investment, Black communities have continually developed strategies to build wealth despite systemic barriers. This panel examines the relationship between economic power and self-determination, exploring innovative approaches to expanding opportunity, increasing financial security, strengthening neighborhoods, and creating lasting prosperity for future generations.

Presenters:

- **Latonya Wallace:** *Building Opportunity: Who Gets the Opportunity to Build Wealth?*
- **LaTonya Muccioli:** *Housing instability within the Black community and creating a path forward.*
- **Jock Payten:** *Owning Our Future: Investment, Legacy and Economic Self-determination.*

Moderator:

- **Melina Hill Walker,** Program Director, Endowment for Health

10:25 AM – 11:40 AM

Panel 4: Resistance, Protection, and the Pursuit of Freedom

In honor of John Lewis



Throughout history, Black communities have defended their humanity and freedom through courage, strategy, and collective action.

Resistance has taken many forms—from abolitionist organizing and courtroom advocacy to cultural survival, community defense, and grassroots movements that challenge injustice today. Rather than viewing resistance as a single moment, this panel considers it as an ongoing practice of protecting Black life, securing freedom, and expanding the possibilities of autonomy across generations.

Presenters:

- **Cecelia Blue:** *Black Women Leading the Resistance and Pursuit of Freedom Then and Now.*
- **Ron Bell:** *Born into the Dream - Still Fighting for Democracy.*
- **Michael Coard:** *Activism and Litigation in Defense of Black History.*

Moderator:

- **Ed Taylor,** Organizing Director at ACLU- NH

11:40 AM - 1:30 PM

Lunchtime Address with George “Conscious” Lee

Afrofuturism and the Digital Renaissance

2026 Black New England Conference Schedule

1:10 PM – 2:25 PM

Panel 5: Black Futures, Representation, Governance, & Collective Liberation *In honor of Octavia Butler*



Where do we go from here? The struggle for autonomy is ultimately about shaping the future. Beyond representation alone, Black communities continue to envision new models of leadership, governance, civic participation, and collective decision-making that center justice, equity, and self-determination. As the conference concludes, this panel looks forward, inviting participants to imagine how today's scholarship, organizing, and vision can help build the institutions, policies, and communities that future generations deserve.

Presenters:

- **Omayya Jade:** *Sifting Through the Rubble: Finding Black Autonomy in a Falling Empire.*
- **Linal Harris:** *Nature's Leadership Code: Reclaiming Black Autonomy Through Authentic Authority.*
- **Imari Paris Jeffries:** *How We Shape Public Monuments & How They Shape Us.*

Moderator:

- **Nathan Harris,** Ph.D. Student: Education - Leadership & Policy Studies



Keynote/Dinner at the DoubleTree

5:00 PM

Book Signing + Meet & Greet with Joy Reid

Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America is a #1 New York Times bestselling social justice biography by former MSNBC host and author Joy-Ann Reid, published by Mariner Books.

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Dinner & Citizen of the Year Award Presentation

The awards dinner, hosted at the Armory Room at the DoubleTree Manchester, is highlighted by presenting the Citizen of the Year Award.

Established in 2015, the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire's Citizen of the Year Award recognizes an individual whose service, leadership, and commitment to community have made a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of others.



The 2026 Citizen of the Year Award will be presented to **Dr. Dottie Morris** by **Trinidad Tellez, MD**.

Past recipients of the award include Community Activist and Writer Shay Stewart-Bouley (2025); Poet and Author Justice Roe Williams (2024); Artist and Community Activist Napoleon Jones-Henderson (2023); President and

CEO of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Jay Williams (2022); Community Activist Brenda Lett (2021); Sculptor and Activist Fern Cunningham (2020); Bay State Banner Chief Editor and Publisher Melvin B. Miller (2019); Artist, Author, and Activist Ashley Bryan (2018); Human Services Administrator Thomas Hooker (2017); Civil Rights Activist and Comedian Dick Gregory (2016); and former NBA player and community leader Dwight Davis (2015).

2026 Black Heritage Trail of NH Citizen of the Year Award

For more than two decades, Dr. Dottie Morris has been a steady and influential force for equity, education, and social justice in New Hampshire and beyond. An educator, psychologist, mentor, community leader, and advocate, she has built a career around a deceptively simple but powerful idea: institutions and communities are stronger when every person is seen, heard, valued, and given the opportunity to thrive.

Dr. Morris currently serves as Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at SUNY Plattsburgh, where she brings decades of experience in higher education, student success, institutional leadership, and community engagement to this new chapter of her career. Her impact in New Hampshire, however, runs deep.



Dr. Dottie Morris

For many years, Dr. Morris was a defining presence at Keene State College, where she served in senior leadership and helped guide the institution's work around equity, inclusion, multiculturalism, and social justice. Her influence extended far beyond administration. Throughout her career, she has worked directly with students as a counselor, teacher, academic adviser, and mentor—roles that reflect her enduring commitment not simply to changing institutions, but to changing lives.

Her leadership has also reached well beyond the college campus. Dr. Morris has served as Chair of the Board of the ACLU of New Hampshire, as a Carsey Fellow with New Hampshire Listens, and on the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion. She was also called upon to help lead the City of Keene's work on racial justice and community safety. Today, she continues her statewide service as a member of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation.

Before Keene State, Dr. Morris held leadership and counseling positions at the School for International Training, Antioch University New England, and Colorado State University. Across these varied roles, one thread has remained constant:

a willingness to enter difficult conversations, challenge inequity, build understanding, and help people and institutions imagine something better. Her contributions have earned recognition across the state, including being named a YWCA New Hampshire Hero for Justice and receiving recognition from New Hampshire's Martin Luther King Coalition for her commitment to social justice.

Yet Dr. Morris's legacy cannot be measured by titles, boards, or awards alone. It is found in the students she has encouraged, the leaders she has mentored, the institutions she has challenged to live more fully into their values, and the communities she has helped move from conversation toward action.

At a moment when questions of belonging, representation, and institutional responsibility remain urgent, Dr. Morris has demonstrated what sustained leadership looks like: principled, courageous, compassionate, and deeply rooted in community.

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire is proud to honor Dr. Dottie Morris as the 2026 Black New England Conference Citizen of the Year, recognizing a remarkable career of service and a legacy that continues to shape New Hampshire and beyond.



Dunk the Vote

est. 1992

ATAC.AvengingTheAncestors@gmail.com



ATAC

Avenging The Ancestors Coalition

AvengingTheAncestors.com

2027 BNEC Call for Papers

Radical Possibilities: Black Thought, Action & the Future

October 23, 2027



The 21st Annual Black New England Conference asks what we can learn from tradition, and what it demands of us now. Radical means going to the root. It means questioning what we have been told is inevitable and daring to imagine something different.

We invite proposals for papers, panels, and presentations that address one or more of the following themes:

- **Radical Ideas** — intellectual traditions, literature, theology, philosophy, education and challenges to accepted knowledge.
- **Radical Acts** — abolition, resistance, organizing, protest, migration, institution-building and collective action.
- **Radical Economies** — land, ownership, cooperatives, entrepreneurship, mutual aid, wealth and economic self-determination.
- **Radical Memory** — archives, museums, monuments, public history, genealogy, and preserving Black knowledge in periods of erasure.
- **Radical Imagination** — art, literature, music, technology, Afrofuturism and envisioning worlds that do not yet exist.
- **Radical Futures** — the ideas emerging now around education, democracy, technology, environment, community, belonging, and liberation that could shape the next century.

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstract (200–250 words) with title
- Short bio (100 words)
- Indicate whether individual paper, full panel, or alternative format.

Deadline for Submissions: June 10, 2027

Notification of Acceptance: July 30, 2027

Please send proposals to: quinci@blackheritagetrailnh.org

2026 Black New England Conference

Presenter Biographies



Eboné F. Bell is a keynote speaker and cultural advocate whose work centers on diversity, Black history, and community engagement. Named by Forbes as an “*Inspiring Black Entrepreneur Changing Our World*,” she has appeared on NBC & MSNBC and speaks nationwide on history, identity/belonging, & collective responsibility.



Netzayet Jones is a writer and cultural researcher whose work explores memory, preservation, and Black diasporic storytelling. Through her Substack, *theinbetween334*, she examines technology, public health, and culture, while researching how communities document their histories and preserve stories often left at the margins.



Dennis Austin Britton is Associate Professor of English at the University of British Columbia. His scholarship explores race, emotion, theology, and early modern English literature. He is the author of numerous books and articles and serves on the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire Board of Trustees as a past president.



Dr. Dottie Morris currently serves as Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at SUNY Plattsburgh, where she brings decades of experience in higher education, student success, institutional leadership, and community engagement to this new chapter of her career. Previously at Keene State College, she has a decades-long career in DEI in New Hampshire.



Lisa Jones is an award-winning storyteller, educator, and cultural leader whose work centers Black history, memory, and community narratives. Through writing, public history, and creative projects, she amplifies underrepresented stories and fosters conversations about identity, belonging, & preserving cultural heritage.



Jason Armstrong is a retired police chief, bestselling author, and keynote speaker focused on leadership, accountability, and institutional trust. A National Law Enforcement Officer Hall of Fame inductee, he led the Ferguson Police Department through federal oversight and now advises organizations nationwide. He is also a frequent commentator on major national news outlets.



Latonya Wallace is Director of Small Business Engagement at the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund and founder of The Leadership Network and Bossy Scribes. With nearly two decades in banking, she supports entrepreneurs and community development and serves in leadership roles across multiple New Hampshire organizations.



LaTonya Muccioli serves as Executive Director of Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire. She holds a master's degree in psychology and brings a person-centered, trauma-informed, and equity-based approach to creating housing solutions that help New Hampshire's most vulnerable residents thrive.



Jock Payten is Founder and Chief Investment Officer of Nubian Square Investment Advisors, a firm dedicated to advancing wealth equity and generational wealth-building. A graduate of Fordham University and the Wharton School, he combines investment expertise with a commitment to inclusive financial planning and economic opportunity.



Michael Coard is a Philadelphia-based civil rights attorney, radio host, professor, and commentator. A longtime advocate for social justice, he is known for his work on issues of race, law, and public policy. Through media, teaching, and public speaking, Coard engages audiences in conversations about history, equity, and civic engagement.



Ron Bell is a civic engagement and voting rights organizer with a track record of developing the infrastructure of public participation in community and government. Founder of the nonpartisan nonprofit Dunk the Vote,, Mr. Bell has built a career in bringing an innovative, results-driven approach to citizen self-advocacy, leadership training and education, political campaigns, and justice-focused coalitions.



Cecilia Blue is a seasoned executive leader with nearly 30 years of leadership experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors, spending many years in the financial services industry. Blue is the first African American in Massachusetts' history to serve as the Registrar, where she managed operating and capital budgets totaling \$280 million.



Omayya Jadé is a Ph.D. student in educational measurement and psychometrics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Founder of the Black Professional and Graduate Organization of the Afro-Diaspora, her research examines the historical roots of assessment and explores how data, art, and organizing can transform systems into tools for liberation.



Linal Harris is a writer, journalist, and cultural commentator whose work explores identity, history, and the Black experience. Through storytelling and public engagement, Harris examines the intersections of memory, culture, and community, encouraging deeper conversations about belonging, representation, and the ways history shapes contemporary life.



Imari Paris Jeffries is Executive Director of Embrace/King Boston, advancing economic and racial justice through the Embrace Memorial and Embrace Center. A three-time UMass Boston graduate, Imari earned bachelor's, master's, and graduate degrees and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education. A military veteran, he served from 1991-1996 during the first Gulf War.

BHTNH

Traveling

Tea Talk



A More Perfect Union:
the Legacy of African American Storytelling

Sunday, November 15, 2026 | 1:30 PM | Nashua Public Library

This conversation traces the evolution of Black speechmaking, from the early antislavery addresses of Frederick Douglass delivered here in New Hampshire to the soaring cadences of Sojourner Truth, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Malcom X. Participants will explore how oratory served as both a survival strategy and a weapon of resistance, affirming African American Speech as a vital force for social change.

Host: Kevin Pajaro-Mariñez, Assistant Director of Equity and Inclusion at Phillips Exeter Academy

Special Guest: Reverend Irene Monroe, Theologian, Columnist, and Speaker

Free to attend - all are welcome!

RSVP TODAY





BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY.

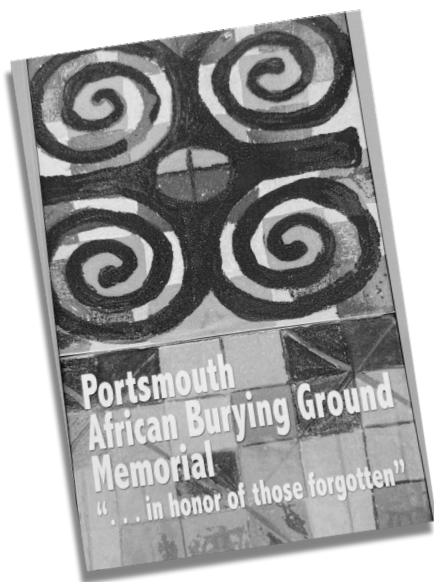
Powerful documentaries. Unforgettable performances. Stories that preserve memory and celebrate the Black history that has shaped—and continues to shape—our country.

Download the
free PBS App.

More to explore with
NHPBS Passport, a
benefit for members.



NH PBS



Portsmouth African Burying Ground Memorial

“...in honor of those forgotten”

The backhoe hit the coffin buried under Chestnut Street the morning of October 7, 2023. Work on the sewer line stopped. And a twelve-year journey began. A journey that led not only to the creation of Portsmouth’s African Burying Ground Memorial, but also to an expanding awareness of New Hampshire’s history of slavery. A journey that brought together white and Black members of the Portsmouth community in a not always easy alliance to “honor those long forgotten.”

\$25 plus shipping

published by Black Heritage Trail of NH

ORDER ONLINE!

blackheritagetrailnh.org/shop

Keynote Address Details

Joy Reid: Erasure, Resistance, and the Power of Self-Definition

In an era marked by the erasure of Black voices and perspectives, journalist and media entrepreneur Joy Reid joins host Anthony Poore for a powerful conversation about resilience, reinvention, and self-determination. Together, they will discuss Joy Reid's remarkable rise to becoming one of the most influential voices in broadcast journalism, her removal from a position of national media power, and her journey to building an independent platform on her own terms.

This discussion examines the shifting landscape of media ownership, the challenges Black leaders face when confronting systems of power, and the importance of creating autonomous spaces where Black stories, ideas, and truths can thrive.



Joy-Ann Reid is a journalist, author, documentary film producer, and social and political commentator, and the former host of “The Reid Report,” “AM Jo,” and “The Reid Out.” She and her husband, Jason, co-own the production company Image Lab Media Group, which produces “The Joy Reid Show” and an upcoming documentary about Medgar Evers. A 1991 Harvard graduate with a

concentration in documentary film, Reid has worked in talk radio for Radio One, served as the managing editor of TheGrio.com, and worked as a political operative for America Coming Together in 2004 and for the 2008 Barack Obama presidential campaign. She is a two-time NAACP Image Award winner and has received Emmy nominations for her nightly news analysis program, “The ReidOut,” on MSNBC.

Her latest project, “The Joy Reid Show,” airs on YouTube and on all audio podcast platforms. Reid has written four books, including two New York Times bestsellers: *Medgar and Myrlie; the Love Story That Awakened America*, which reached number one on the Times list and won the 2025 NAACP Image Award in the biography category, and *The Man Who Sold America*, as well as *Fracture: Barack Obama, The Clintons and the Racial Divide*, and the foreword to *Kamala Harris: Selections From the Official White House Photography*. Reid is a proud honorary member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She and her husband have four adult children.

Lunchtime Address Details

Afrofuturism and the Digital Renaissance

Afrofuturism fundamentally challenges who gets to imagine the future, control time, and define reality. The "comfort zone of whiteness" is, at its core, a temporal and narrative comfort zone—a presumption that history is linear and progressive, centers a particular experience, and that the future is a neutral, inevitable extension of that.

The current digital renaissance is not merely a technological shift but a critical site for the Black future-in-the-making. Through the lens of Afrofuturism, we can consciously channel this moment toward tangible Black determination by applying ancestral principles of self-definition, community building, and resistance to the virtual and algorithmic realms, thereby resisting digital erasure and shaping a self-determined tomorrow.



George “Conscious” Lee Jr. is a multifaceted thought leader, influencer, author, and educator from Texas. Born in Bryan, Texas, to teenage parents, Lee overcame childhood adversity to attend the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a Bachelor’s and two Master’s degrees and became one of the country’s top college policy debaters. In 2022, Conscious was nominated for his first

NAACP Image Award, Outstanding Social Media Personality category. He’s been named to the WayMaker Top 50 and honored as an International Webby Award nominee for his influential podcasting. Forbes, Essence, The Washington Post, Yahoo Life, The Atlantic, Business Insider, and The New York Times have featured his videos and commentary. He has partnered with organizations including BET, YouTube, and the University of Kentucky. His work sits at the intersection of media, socio-political issues, & popular culture. Lee is “purposefully provocative” as a tool to elevate and educate on pertinent topics through speaking engagements, lectures, and online courses. He’s developed a brand that translates an understanding of oppression, history, and philosophy to the world.

2026 Black New England Conference Hosts

JerriAnne Boggis



Gene Martin



Jen Torres



Bithia Carter



Dr. L. Chris Matthews



Jada Hebra



Jennifer Batchelor



Lisa Jones



April Jackson



SNHU Student Presenters:

Diana Rosa '30

Esther Guillomaitre '27

Najla Nelson '30

Acknowledgements

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire Volunteers

Sonya Arroyo, Will Arvelo, Donna Crane, Dan Comly, Ryan Cutting, Valerie Fagin, Jeannine Jacques, Karen Jacoby, Roxanne Jones, Shannon Miller, Bonny Morris, Patricia Savage, Suzie Scharff, Nur Shoop, Karen Prior, John Robbins, Tina Kim Philibotte, Barbara Ward

BHTNH Staff & Program Planning Committee

Gina Bowker, Doug Marino, Dariya Steele, Jake Webb, Quinci Worthey, Shelley Hartz, Anne Romney, Allyson Ryder

Special Thanks

BHTNH is grateful to the Southern New Hampshire University staff, faculty, and student volunteers for helping to make this event successful.

A black and white photograph of a woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a light-colored blazer over a dark turtleneck. She is holding a microphone in her right hand and gesturing with her left hand. The background is blurred, suggesting a conference or event setting.

**Putting
people
first**

**Because every success story
starts with people.**

Celebrating 20 Years of the
Black New England Conference

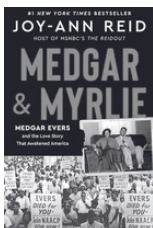
Proud to support this milestone year.



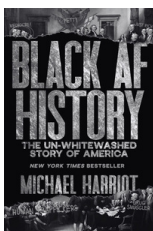
www.trg.com

2026 Black New England Conference

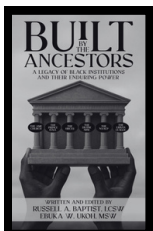
Suggested Reading List



Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America, by Joy-Ann Reid, is a triumphant biography that repositions slain Civil Rights pioneer Medgar Evers at the heart of America's struggle for freedom and celebrates Myrlie Evers's extraordinary activism after her husband's assassination in the driveway of their Mississippi home.



Black AF History, Michael Harriot presents a more accurate version of American history. Combining unapologetically provocative storytelling with meticulous research grounded in primary sources and the work of pioneering Black historians, scholars, and journalists, Harriot strips away the white sugarcoating from the American story and places Black people squarely at the center.

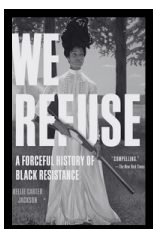


BUILT BY THE ANCESTORS: A LEGACY OF BLACK INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ENDURING POWER

This book reveals how Black institutions were created, how they endured, and why they remain essential in today's struggles for justice and belonging.

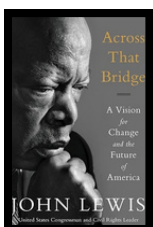


Don't Let Them Bury My Story: The Oldest Living Survivor of the Tulsa Race Massacre In Her Own Words. Viola Ford Fletcher's memoir vividly recounts the lasting impact of the Tulsa Massacre on her life. Her inspiring story is a powerful reminder that some wounds never fully heal, and we must never forget the lessons of our history.



We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance

Historian Kellie Carter Jackson urges us to move past this false choice, offering an unflinching examination of the breadth of Black responses to white oppression, particularly those pioneered by Black women.



Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America

Drawing on his experience as a prominent Civil Rights Movement leader, Congressman John Lewis offers timeless wisdom, poignant recollections, and powerful principles for anyone seeking to challenge injustice and inspire real change toward a freer, more peaceful society.

2027 Schedule of Events

*BHTNH's 2027 programs examine the **radical ideas** that have challenged what is, imagined what could be, and inspired Black communities to build new futures.*

Elinor Williams Hooker Tea Talk Series

Sundays, February 7-28

Two Americas: Race, Reality & the Radical Work of Seeing Each Other

Juneteenth Celebration

June 14-19

Radical Connections: Community, Power, and Possibility

Frederick Douglass Community Reading

Saturday, July 3

"What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July?"

An annual reading of Frederick Douglass's searing 1852 address, taking place in communities across NH.

21st Annual Black New England Conference

October 23

Radical Possibilities: Black Thought, Action & the Future

Sanokfa Walking Tours and Speakers

Available Throughout the Year

Historic Marker Unveilings

April through October





Sankofa EX is a new series of **outdoor museum EXperiences** designed for your phone. **Sankofa EX**hibits serve as a digital bridge, connecting outdoor public art and historical monuments from the Black Heritage Trail of NH with rich interactive mobile content, so you can actively engage with Black History while standing in the physical spaces where it is honored.

The Meaning Behind the Name

Sankofa is a word and philosophical concept from the Akan people of Ghana that translates roughly to "go back and get it." It expresses the belief that it is never too late to look to your past to understand your present and build a better future. The concept centers on the idea that true progress requires us to carry forward the valuable lessons, traditions, and knowledge of those who came before us.

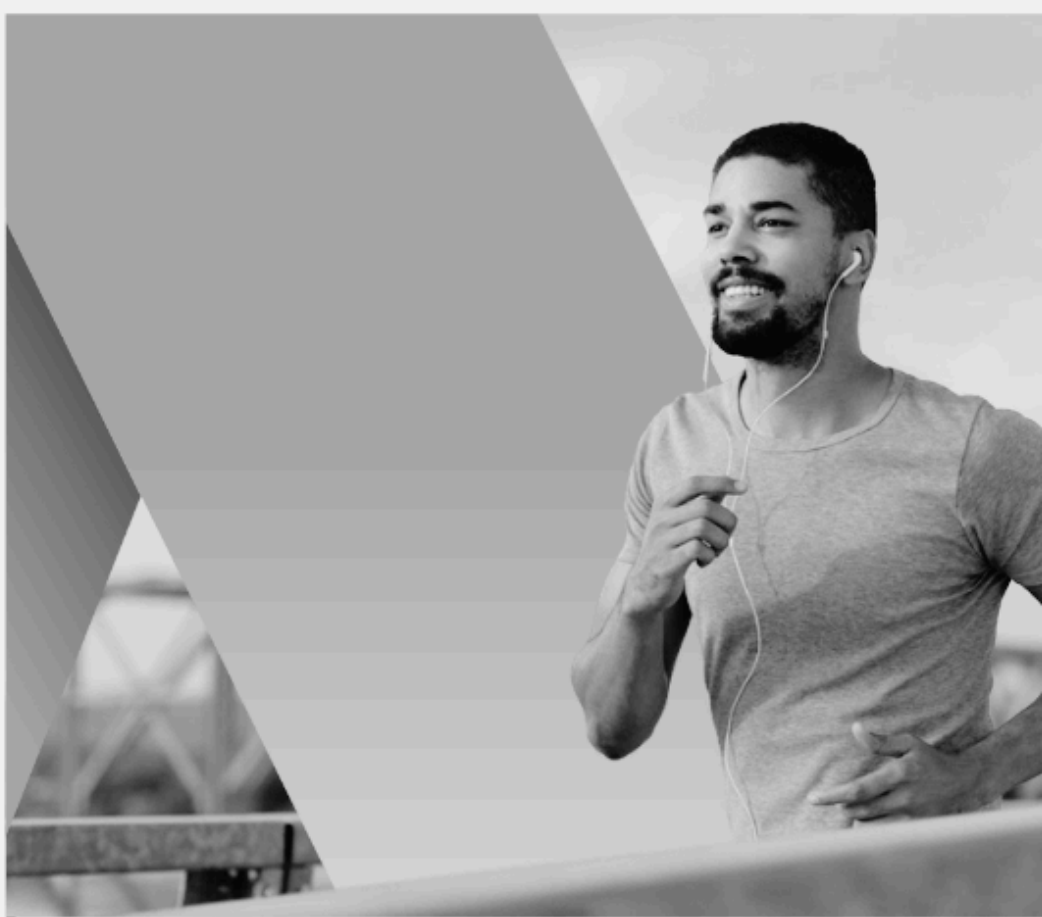
What the Experience Includes

In practice, **Sankofa EX** uses your smartphone, scanning QR codes with its camera, to bring static outdoor exhibits to life through Multimedia storytelling, behind-the-scenes insights, and Interactive sharing.

The **Sankofa EX** platform encourages visitors to take part in history by sharing digital postcards from the exhibit directly from their phones. Our goal is to reach 400,000 impressions from shares. Be an active participant in history, and together we can **bring Black History forward!**

SCAN HERE





As the leading provider of quality dental coverage for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, we're helping our communities smile through education, veteran support, giving, volunteering and more.

There's a lot to smile about.



www.nedelta.com



EPISCOPAL

CHURCH OF NH

Loving, Living, Life Giving

The Reconciliation Commission
of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire
salutes the Black New England Conference
for the celebration of Black life and truth telling
Thank you for helping to create a "Beloved Community"
www.nhepiscopal.org





**We're better
together,
thanks to you.**

You build bridges, amplify diverse voices
and support our community. Thank you.

Member FDIC | TD Bank, N.A. ©2024, TD Bank, N.A. and/or its affiliates.
All rights reserved. The TD logo and other TD trademarks are owned by
The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its affiliates and are used under license.



Bank

America's Most Convenient Bank®

YOU BELONG HERE

At SNHU, we're on a mission to make college more accessible for everyone. So we've built a community of support where different people can come together, learn together, and be united by shared hopes and common dreams.

If that sounds like a place you want to be, we can't wait to meet you.



Southern
New Hampshire
University

Learn more at snhu.edu