

15TH ANNUAL BLACK NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE



Crossing River Jordan

Healing Racial Wounds Through Accountability & Truth-Telling

A Hybrid/Virtual Conference
Presented by
Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire
in Partnership with Southern NH University

October 22 & 23, 2021

www.blackheritagetrailnh.org/black-new-england-conference
603-570-8469

FEATURING KEYNOTE ADDRESSES & SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATIONS BY:



Imari Paris Jeffries



Mahdi Davenport



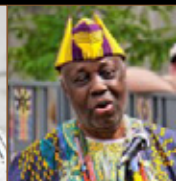
Yvette Modestin



Belvie Rooks



Sheila Wise Rowe



Chief Wándé Abimbolá

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the bar.
Others
raise it.**



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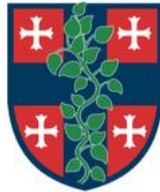
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~ Welcome ~

On behalf of our conference directors, organizers, staff, and volunteers, we welcome you to the **15th Annual Black New England Conference**. We look forward to robust discussions, engaging keynote addresses, and the recognition of this year's award recipient Brenda Bailey Lett.

From the moment of capture, through the treacherous Middle Passage, after the final sale, and throughout their lives in the Western Hemisphere, the experience of enslaved Africans was characterized by loss, terror, and horrific abuse. Continuing racial injustice has been a stain on our nation's history. Daily headlines are a constant reminder that the past is not past. This year's conference: ***Crossing River Jordan: Healing Racial Wounds through Accountability and Truth-Telling***, explores legacies of racism, and explores paths forward to collective accountability and collective healing.

Traditional African spirituality acknowledges that there is no separation between the spiritual and the fabric of everyday life. Our panels explore several threads of this fabric and weave a tapestry of hope for the future. What sustained generations of enslaved Africans and African Americans through moments of despair? Can art and memorialization help to bring healing and reconciliation? What reparations would constitute genuine and meaningful repair? What role has organized religion played in spiritual guidance and community activism, and what is being done today? How can African Americans overcome the trauma they experience in the current radicalized environment? These are serious questions for serious times.

As we together face the ongoing challenges of CoVid 19, the conference is again nearly entirely online, and we owe much to our partner, Southern New Hampshire University, for making this "virtual" experience as participatory as possible. Our conference seeks to merge academic scholarship with a serious exploration of historical and contemporary issues, and a joyful celebration of Black lives, culture, and history. We hope that our format will encourage the continuation of the community engagement feel that is the hallmark of our conference. For those of you attending the in-person awards dinner, we thank you for following our CoVid 19 requirements that we have put in place.

We thank each of you for being with us, and for bringing your voice, your experiences, and your expertise to our gathering. We could not accomplish what we do without your support. We hope that our opening ceremony will bring us together as a truth-seeking community in recognition of the traditional African worldview in which spirituality informs everything including politics, art, economics, survival, healing, death, and rebirth. Throughout the conference, we ask you to be active participants, stay engaged, join the discussions, and offer suggestions. Your suggestions will help us to shape next year's Black New England Conference.

BHTNH Executive Director JerriAnne Boggis

~ Introducing Lunchtime Keynote Speakers ~



Shari Robinson



LaTonya Wallace

~ Awards Dinner & Keynote Address Participants ~



JerriAnne Boggis



Dennis Britton



Cassidy Manti & the St. Anselm Jazz Band



Paul LeBlanc



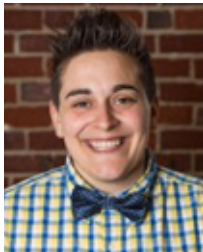
Cory Booker



Chris Pappas



Renee Rousse



Helena Iaquinta



Dwight Davis



Robert Thompson

~ 2021 Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire ~ Citizen of the Year



When **Brenda Bailey Lett** came to New Hampshire in 1993, she began a journey that has earned her a reputation as one of the Granite State’s most “Influential and Phenomenal Women.” Her organizing skills and creativity have led to a galaxy of cultural celebrations and strategically positioned platforms for social justice. Ms. Lett, of African descent, is co-author of *Race Between Us: Racism A Human Experience* with her co-worker, a woman of European descent, their

story of the profound and inescapable truths that emerge when barriers are removed and honest dialogue happens.

A Chicago native, Brenda Bailey Lett’s experiences as “a city girl” explain her determination after the cultural shock of moving to northern New England to continue her education. She earned master’s degrees in mental health and economic development that prepared her to advocate for underserved people. Lett is now retired from the NH Dept. of Corrections as a Corrections Counselor Case Manager. However, her commitment to social justice has never been stronger.

Brenda Lett has been a Convenor of the *Tapestry of Color Awards* Luncheon, rewarding other community activists with proclamations from the NH Governor. She is co-founder of the annual We Are One Summer Festivals in New England. And Lett co-sponsors the Community Kwanzaa Celebrations that close each year. Ms. Lett has been publicly recognized for her activities as “a drum major for peace” by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Coalition (MLK Coalition-NH); by the YWCA for Empowering Leadership and Equity in New Hampshire, (YWCA-NH); and by the NAACP Freedom Fund.

In addition to personal acts of kindness, Lett’s public leadership roles include former president of the Manchester NAACP and serving on the boards of NH Black Women Health Project, the Greater Manchester Black Scholarship Foundation, and Haymarket Peoples Foundation.

Brenda Lett is also well-known for her many years, along with her husband Woullard Lett, with the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA). Brenda Lett is a member of N’COBRA’s national board and is national treasurer of N’COBRA.

We are proud to present our Citizen of the Year, **Brenda Bailey Lett**.

~ Awards Event Program ~

6:00 – 8:00 PM | In-Person, Friday, October 22, 2021

MEET & GREET (5:30 - 6 PM)

WELCOME

JerriAnne Boggis, Executive Director, BHTNH
Dennis Britton, President Board of Directors, BHTNH

A TRIBUTE TO MAHALIA JACKSON

Music by Cassidy Manti & the St. Anselm Jazz Band

UNIVERSITY WELCOME (virtual)

Paul LeBlanc, President
Southern New Hampshire University

SPECIAL GUEST ADDRESS (virtual)

U.S. Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey

BHTNH & SNHU PARTNERSHIP

Jada Hebra, Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer,
Southern New Hampshire University

BHTNH CITIZEN of the YEAR AWARD

Presenter: U.S. Representative Chris Pappas of New Hampshire

Award Recipient: Brenda Bailey Lett

TABLE BLESSING

Rev. Renee Rouse

BUFFET DINNER

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Southern New Hampshire University Students

KEYNOTE ADDRESS and Q&A

Dr. Robert Livingston, Lecturer of Public Policy,
Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government
"The Conversation"

CLOSING REMARKS

Dwight Davis, President Elect, BHTNH

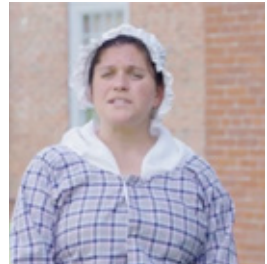
2021 Black New England Conference Schedule

Crossing River Jordan: Healing Racial Wounds through Accountability and Truth-Telling

~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 ~

VIRTUAL TOURS Available Throughout the Conference

NEVER CAUGHT: THE WASHINGTONS & ONA MARIE JUDGE IN NH. A living history virtual tour with Sonya Martino as Ona Marie Judge.



*Sonya Martino as
Ona Marie Judge*

During the Spring of 1796, George Washington's final months in office, Ona Judge, an enslaved woman held by the First Family, escaped the Executive Mansion in Philadelphia with the aid of that city's free Black community and made her way to Portsmouth. On this tour, you will hear the true story of Ona's quest for freedom and the President's relentless efforts to get her back. See the waterfront where she landed and visit the properties of some of early America's most powerful families whose stories were also bound to hers.

MEET JACK STAINES, A "BLACK JACK" IN HISTORIC OLD PORTSMOUTH. A Living History Virtual Tour with Kevin Wade Mitchel as Sailor Jack Staines



*Kevin Wade Mitchel as
Sailor Jack Staines*

Seafaring was one of the most significant occupations among both enslaved and free Black men between 1740 and 1865. Black sailors sailed on whalers, warships, and privateers. Some were enslaved and forced to work at sea, but by 1800 most seamen were free to seek adventure and economic opportunity aboard ship. On this tour you will meet a mariner who was also husband to Ona Marie Judge, the escaped woman who was enslaved by the President and Martha Washington. Experience old Portsmouth through the stories of Jack Staines, one of the seamen known as a "Black Jack."

~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ~

8:45 AM

WEBINAR WAITING ROOM OPENS (VIDEO & OPEN REMARKS)

9:00 – 9:15 AM

THE CALL OF THE DRUMS: HONORING THE ANCESTORS

The Conference opens with a special traditional African healing ceremony with drumming and chants to honor the gods and ancestors, and to heal the community.

FEATURING Chief Wándé Abímbólá and Robert Bellinger, Ph.D.

9:15-10:45 AM

PANEL 1, THE PAST IS NOT PAST: HISTORICAL BLACK PRACTICES OF SURVIVAL & CLAIMS TO FREEDOM

In Honor of Rev. Thomas Paul, Exeter NH

From the moment of capture, through the treacherous Middle Passage, after the final sale and throughout life in North America, the experience of enslaved Africans who arrived in the U.S. was characterized by loss, terror, and horrific abuse. Yet somehow, they managed to survive, foster community, and maintain an unwavering belief in their own humanity. What sustained them?

What beliefs did they bring from their homeland that allowed them to find hope in deep despair? Where did this abiding faith in the ultimate triumph of good over evil come from? This panel will explore these questions and more.



Rev. Thomas Paul

PANELISTS

- **Chief Wándé Abímbólá**, Author & Educator on African Cosmology, Boston MA
- **Rev. Robert Thompson**, African American Spirituals, Exeter NH
- **Christopher Cameron**, Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte NC
- **Moderator: Deborah Karyn King**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Dartmouth College, Hanover NH

~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ~

10:45 AM-NOON

PANEL 2, A CHECK UNCASHED: PAST & PRESENT PROJECTS FOR REPARATIONS

In Honor of Callie Guy House, Nashville TN

In 1963, when Dr. King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech he began not with a utopian image of racial harmony but with the metaphor of a bad check. It is a stark description, an accusation articulated in blunt, economic terms on a debt of justice owed to a people. What would a “good” check entail? What are fair and just reparations?

What would constitute genuine and meaningful repair? Panelists will discuss the complexities inherent in addressing these issues and share their thoughts on why more than a century and a half after slavery was abolished, reparations remain an emotionally charged and unresolved issue.



Callie Guy House

PANELISTS

- **Davarian Baldwin**, Professor of American Studies, Trinity College, Hartford CT
- **Dr. Alan Bean**, Executive Director, Friends of Justice, Arlington TX
- **Kathleen Anderson**, Female Co-Chair, New England Chapter N’COBRA, Amherst MA “Reparations Are Overdue”
- **Moderator: Dottie Morris**, Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity & Equity, Keene State College, Keene NH

12:30 PM

LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING BERWICK MAHDI DAVENPORT

Accountability And Truth-Telling

“A movement without accountability is like a lion in the wild without teeth!” Truth is the lion’s roar. Accountability is his teeth!



Berwick Mahdi Davenport

~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2021 VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ~

1:30-3:00 PM

PANEL 3, TELL IT TRUE: HEALING THROUGH PUBLIC MEMORY & MEMORIALS

In Honor of Meta Warrick Fuller

The current upsurge of memorials honoring forgotten or marginalized histories serve multiple purposes. Arguably, they stand as retroactive tokens of recognition and symbols of social and personal recovery, as well as a unifying force for communities. Or do they instead, by recognizing our tragic past, deepen the lines of division and further open the wounds inflicted by tragedy and violence? This panel of artists will explore the roles we assign to memorials and the value they may bring to our societies. As tools that go beyond remembrance do they create opportunities for racial healing and encourage reconciliation?



Meta Warrick Fuller

PANELISTS

- **Michelle Browder**, Sculptor, and Community Artist, Montgomery AL, “Properly Honoring and Memorializing the Mothers of Gynecology”
- **Imari Paris Jeffries**, Executive Director, King Boston, Boston MA
- **Jerome Meadows**, sculpture and studio artist, Savannah GA “The Impact of Public Memorials on Truth-Telling and Racial Healing”
- **Liz Wright**, Professor, & English Graduate Faculty, University of Minnesota, Duluth MN, “Recognizing Native Burying Grounds”
- **Moderator: Nadine Petty**, Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity, Chief Diversity Officer, University of NH, Durham NH

6:00-8:30 PM

LIVE EVENT - IN PERSON

**AWARDS DINNER AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
FEATURING DR. ROBERT LIVINGSTON**
**“The Conversation” How Seeking and
Speaking the Truth about Racism Can
Radically Transform Individuals**



Dr. Robert Livingston

~ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ~

8:45 AM

WEBINAR WAITING ROOM OPENS (VIDEO & OPEN REMARKS)

9:00-10:15 AM

PANEL 4, MY HOME IS OVER JORDAN: THE ROLE OF RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY IN BLACK HEALING

In Honor of Minister Richard Allen

Henry Louis Gates Jr., in his book *The Black Church*, speaks of the debate over whether the enslaved Africans embrace of Christianity under slavery was a positive or negative force. Some argued that the Black Church was an example of Karl Marx's indictment of religion as "the opium of the people" because it gave to the oppressed false comfort and hope. This panel will explore the role of religion in the African American community from its role as the source of spiritual guidance to that of community activism.



Minister Richard Allen

PANELISTS

- **Pamela Ayo Yetunde**, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Saint Paul MN. "Truth-Telling in an Age of "Alternative Facts"
- **Rev. Lauren Smith**, Director of Stewardship and Development, Unitarian Universalist Association, Boston MA, "Healing and Challenges in the Black Church"
- **Rev. Effie McAvoy**, Pastor, York-Oqunquit United Methodist Church, York, ME, "Christian, Queer, and Black: Yes, Faith is an Option"
- **Moderator: L. Chris Matthews**, Professor, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester NH

~ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ~

10:30-11:45 AM

PANEL 5, THE RIGHT TO BE WHOLE: NEW MODES FOR HEALING GENERATIONAL & HISTORICAL BLACK TRAUMA

In Honor of Ellen Kitch Childs

Over the past few years, racial tensions have once again become more vocal and socially normalized. In this cycle of unrest, trauma-inducing events are more visible due to social media. Those who are disenfranchised are showing the world their mistreatment through videos and status updates, thus demanding accountability. This panel will examine the trauma and brokenness that African Americans experience in a racialized society and explore ways in which communities can engage in a healing process that will produce personal, relational, communal, societal, and global restoration.



Ellen Kitch Childs

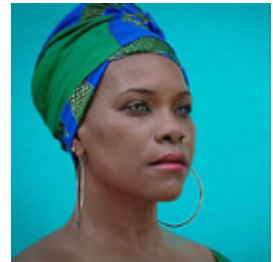
PANELISTS

- **Sheila Wise Rowe**, Executive Director, Rehoboth House, Nahant MA, “Transcending Racial Trauma”
- **Geneva Ree Taylor**, Community Engagement Specialist for the Office of Police Accountability (OPA), Seattle WA, “Healing Through Restorative Practice”
- **Moderator: Melina Hill Walker**, Program Director, Endowment for Health, Concord NH

12:00 NOON

LUNCHTIME KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING YVETTE MODESTIN

“Guided by the Whispers of the Ancestors”



Yvette Modestin

~ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ~

1:15-2:30 PM

PANEL 6, I'LL FLY AWAY: HOW WE MOVE FORWARD FROM HERE

In Honor of Anya Dillard

Under international human rights law, governments have an obligation to provide effective remedies for violations of human rights. The right to remedy and reparation is a longstanding legal standard where people who have individually or collectively suffered harm should receive full and effective reparations that are proportional to the gravity of the violation and the cumulative harm suffered. Reparation, as defined by international human rights standards, includes Restitution, Compensation, Rehabilitation, Satisfaction and Guarantees of non-repetition. For this panel, presenters will discuss strategies, tools, and skills that can bring about collective healing as well as share a variety of restorative projects that have potential as agents of transformation, restoration, and social justice.



Anya Dillard

PANELISTS

- **Belvie Rooks**, Author, Educator, and Co-Founder, Growing a Global Heart, “Heartbreak: What Would Healing Look Like?”
- **Kabir Hypolite**, Board of Directors, Peace at Any Pace, Oakland CA, “In Search of Hypolites: Making Sense of My African and Native American Ancestry”
- **Loretta Brady**, Professor, Psychology and Director, Requity Labs, Saint Anselm College, Manchester NH, “Rivers of Health: Campus explorations of river ecology, enslavement, economics, and health equity through games”
- **Moderator: Bithiah Carter**, President/CEO, New England Blacks in Philanthropy, Boston MA

2:30 PM

CLOSING EVENT

Remarks by BHTNH Board President, Dennis Britton

Musical Selection by BHTNH Board Member, LaTonya Wallace

Awards Dinner Keynote Speaker Friday, Oct. 22



Dr. Robert Livingston is a social psychologist and one of the nation’s leading experts on the science underlying bias and racism. For two decades, he has served as a diversity consultant to scores of Fortune 500 companies, public-sector agencies, and non-profit organizations. Prior to joining Harvard’s Kennedy School in 2015, he held professorships at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, and the University of Sussex, where he was

the chair of the organizational behavior area as well as the founder and faculty director of the Centre for Leadership, Ethics, and Diversity (LEAD).

Dr. Livingston’s research has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Harvard Business Review*. His work ranges from micro-level investigations of the psychological and physiological processes that underlie unconscious bias—to more macro-level examinations of how biases impact organizational diversity, leadership representation, and social justice. For example, his research on the “Teddy Bear Effect” finds that Black CEOs uniquely benefit from having facial features that make them appear warmer and less threatening (i.e., babyfacedness). He is also known for his research on the intersectionality of race and gender, and how the nature of bias systematically differs for White women, Black women, and Black men.

His work has been published in top-tier academic journals such as the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Academy of Management Journal*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Psychological Science*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, and *Leadership Quarterly*. He is the author of *The Conversation: How Seeking and Speaking the Truth about Racism Can Radically Transform Individuals and Organizations* published by Penguin Random House in February 2021.

In his spare time, he enjoys jazz, wine, and whiskey tasting, gastronomy, philosophy, interior design, real estate investing, hiking, and nature documentaries. He has resided in five countries and speaks four languages.

Lunchtime Keynote Speaker Friday, Oct. 22



Berwick Mahdi Davenport, AKA “M” is a social justice, anti-racist facilitator with more than thirty years of experience. Mahdi is a pioneer in the field of Life Coaching. He is a coach who coaches coaches, facilitating and mentoring thousands of leaders from all over the globe.

M is the prodigy behind the Ego Reduction Formula, which makes possible

the integration of social and political consciousness with spiritual consciousness. M is a celebrated author and loving father of three very beautiful daughters.

Mahdi’s Keynote message will invite leaders to reflect on the African proverb called Ubuntu that says: “I AM because YOU ARE.” And in doing so, realize more clearly the power of interconnectedness and the role accountability plays in the constant improvement and elevation of humanity.

Stay tuned for information on the new

Women and Girls of Color Fund

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2021 Black New England Conference



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Lunchtime Keynote Speaker Saturday, Oct. 23



Yvette Modestin-Lepolata Aduke-Empress Modest-I Yvette Modestin, a writer, poet and activist was born and raised in Colon, Panama. Ms. Modestin was named one of “30 Afro Latinas you should know.” She is Founder/Executive Director of Encuentro Diaspora Afro in Boston, MA. Ms. Modestin has been profiled by the *Boston Globe* as “The Uniter” for her work in bringing the Latin American and African American community together and

for her activism in building a voice for the Afro Latino Community. She was named an “Influyentes” in Panama by the President and the First Lady for her advocacy in bringing attention to the struggle of the Black communities in Panama. In October 2021 Ms. Modestin received the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ by *El Mundo Boston* newspaper, one of the oldest Latino newspapers in New England.

Ms. Modestin is the Diaspora Coordinator of the Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora, an international network of Afro descendent women. She is the co-founder of The HairSTory Project and the co-curator of the production ReRooted. In February 2021 she was named as one of the 6 Contemporary Panamanian Authors You Should Know by the Latino Book Review. She is a Board Member of the Center for African, Caribbean and Community Development (CACCD) at UMass Boston. She is a board member of IBW Institute of the Black World. Ms. Modestin is NAARC (National African American Reparations Commission) Commissioner. In September 2020 Empress Modest-I was named Reparations and Pan African Ambassador for the Alianza Rastafari de Panama. In 2019 Ms. Modestin received the inaugural “Every Woman is an Activist” Award from March Forward Massachusetts. In 2020 Ms. Modestin was named one of the Women Winning Globally on International Women’s Day by Afroenchix. In 2019 her Poetry book, *Nubian Butterfly: The Transformation of a Soulful Heart* was released in Panama. Ms. Modestin speaks to the acknowledgment of the historical connection of people of African descent and the importance of seeing each other as we seek our collective liberation.



The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire promotes awareness and appreciation of New Hampshire's African American history and life in order to build more inclusive communities today.

We are committed to the accurate telling of African American history and life throughout the State of New Hampshire. By fostering dialogues about race, diversity, and inclusion, and sharing these corrective narratives, we believe it is possible to promote understanding and overcome racial division. A more equitable and just view of our shared history, once free of historical stereotypes, can change the way we understand human dignity.

BHTNH offers a series of educational programs including guided tours, virtual tours, hybrid, in-person, and live public programs, along with educational materials, school tours, and teacher workshops. We work with our statewide network of historical societies and volunteers to support rigorous research and establish locations for historical plaques throughout New Hampshire.

This year we unveiled two new Black Heritage Trail markers: one in Hancock, and one in Warner, NH. Two additional markers will be unveiled soon. Our partnership with the NH Forest Society in Warner brought together people from many different backgrounds to do what we do best—present new corrective narratives of our history that challenge stereotypes and build a new understanding of our diverse community. We know it works!

This year we have continued to be affected by the global COVID 19 pandemic, but we are pleased that, with safety protocols, we have been able to conduct in-person tours. These many challenges reinforce the ways that all of us depend on one another. In finding new ways to reach and include a wider audience in our programs, we have gained new friends for the Black Heritage Trail around the state, the region, the nation, and the world.

As we go forward into 2022, we face growing controversy over the teaching of the uncomfortable truths of our local, state, and national histories. Aspects of our past that deal with racism have often been downplayed, ignored, or erased. Nonetheless, we will continue developing programs to promote the awareness and appreciation of African American history and life. We continue to create safe spaces for the difficult discussions needed to build community and overcome misunderstanding and divisiveness.

We hope you enjoy this year's Black New England Conference offered again in a virtual format. We are proud to present to you a roster of extraordinary scholars, thought leaders, and public figures to address the issue of healing the wounds of hundreds of years of racial trauma. We are pleased that this year we are able to again hold our Awards Dinner in person to honor a truly remarkable individual, Brenda Bailey Lett, for her lifelong dedication to the cause of reconciliation and healing. May we join together in hope, with a determination to continue to struggle for the best possible version of ourselves, and of our world.

~ Special Thanks to Our Conference Volunteers ~

Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire & Volunteers

Valerie Cunningham, Jeannine Jacques, Angela Matthews, Grace Peirce, Brad Randolph, Donna Robinson, Nur Shoop, Brian Vawter, Nancy Vawter.

BHTNH Staff & BNEC Program Planning Committee

Gina Bowker, Dan Comly, Rita Weathersby, Jeannine Jacques, Suzanne Pacquin, Laney Meldrum, Barbara Ward.

University of New Hampshire volunteers

Allyson Rider, Katie Umans.

Southern New Hampshire University staff, faculty, & volunteers

Maria Aguirre, AJ Belmont, Seth Blake, Stephen Boucher, Audrey Bourqu, Gina Cravedi, Theo Dunfey, Jada Hebra, Teresa Harris, Helena Iaquinta, Paul LeBlanc, Mike Liane and the Media Services Team, Jasmine Liu, Libby May, Danielle Nielsen, Kayla Page, Jonathan Wesley, Deborah Greaves, Courtney Lawson, Nina Weinstein.

Conversation Room Facilitators

Gail Avery, Theo Dunfey, Jada Hebra, Helena Iaquinta, Jeannine Jacques, Jasmine Liu, Angela Matthews, Anne Romney, Barbara Ward.

2021-2022 BHTNH Schedule of Events

Black Matter is Life Poetry Event - Thursday, November 18, 2021; Wednesday, December 15, 2021; Thursday, January 20, 2022

Special Program in Partnership with ACLU - Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul featuring Dr. Eddie Glaude Jr, April 1, 2022

Juneteenth Celebration - Honoring & Celebrating African Americas Through Public Art, June 17 – 19, 2022

Frederick Douglass Community Reading - Friday, July 1, 2022

Black New England Conference - Where the Money Resides: An Exploration of Racialized Access & Historic Exclusion from Wealth, October 21 - 22, 2022

BHTNH Guided Tours available throughout the year

Visit

www.blackheritagetrailnh.org for updates and details

2021 Black New England Conference - Presenters Biographies

Virtual Tours



Sonya Martino was born and raised in Manchester by a French-Canadian mother and a Puerto Rican father. As a single teenage mother now celebrating her marriage of 20 years, Sonya consistently earns admiration and accolades for demonstrating the power of a joyful spirit. This is her second year as a tour guide sharing Ona's story for the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. She also brings her intellectual energy to the Portsmouth office when she makes a long commute to work as a volunteer in Archives & Research.



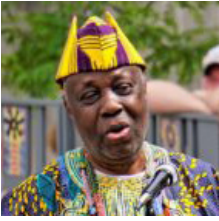
Kevin Wade Mitchel is a graduate of the Elma Lewis School of Performing Arts in Dorchester, MA. He has been acting professionally for over four decades. He has performed throughout New England in commercials, independent films, theatre, and an MTV video. He has been seen on *NH Chronicle* as Frederick Douglass. He recently performed as Jack Staines on the *Gundalow* sailing in our historic harbor, in the roles of Bill and Mahogany's Dad in "The Bus Stop" at the Seacoast Rep Theatre, and as Martin Luther King Jr. in "All the Way" at the Players' Ring.

Opening Ceremony



Robert Bellinger, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of History at Suffolk University. He is the founder and Director of the Black Studies program and Director of the Clark Collection of African American Literature. Professor Bellinger teaches African American history, African Diaspora studies, and the history and culture of Senegal. His research interests include late 19th century African American history, West African history, culture, and drum traditions. In addition to his teaching and research, Professor Bellinger trains student teachers to teach history in the middle and secondary schools, working on the inclusion of African and African diaspora history and culture into curricula, and working with study abroad programs.

Panel #1: The Past Is Not Past: Historical Black Practices of Survival & Claims to Freedom



Chief Wándé Abímbólá is a Nigerian academician, a professor of Yoruba language and literature, and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) and has also served as the Majority Leader of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He was installed as Àwísé Awo Àgbàyé in 1981 by the Ooni of Ife

on the recommendation of a conclave of Babalawos of Yorubaland. Abímbólá taught in three Nigerian universities, namely the University of Ibadan, University of Lagos, and the University of Ife. He has also taught at several US universities, including Indiana University, Amherst College, Harvard University, Boston University, Colgate University, and the University of Louisville. Abímbólá has written several books on Ifá and Yoruba culture.



Robert H. Thompson is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a Conflict Resolution Practitioner, and the Pastor and Founder of Sovereign Souls Fellowship Church. He has lived in the seacoast area of New Hampshire for over thirty years. Throughout his time as a resident of New Hampshire, Thompson has actively striven to

address issues of race and inclusion. He is a member and was inaugural President of the Board of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. He also serves as a member of the Board of the Racial Unity Team which serves the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.



Christopher Cameron is Professor of History and Chair of the Africana Studies department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He was the founding president of the African American Intellectual History Society. Cameron holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in American History. He is the author of *To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in*

Massachusetts and the Making of the Antislavery Movement and *Black Freethinkers: A History of African American Secularism*. His current book project, *Liberal Religion and Race in America*, explores the intersection of race and liberal religion dating back to the mid-18th century and the varied ways that liberal theology has informed African American religion and politics in the 20th and 21st centuries.



Deborah Karyn King (Moderator) is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the departments of African American Studies, Sociology, and Women's Studies. She was awarded the 2017 Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award for Lifetime Achievement. This prestigious accolade recognizes her work over many decades as a leader working toward social justice

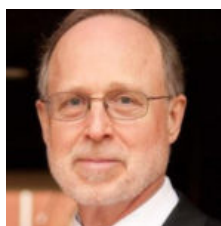
in her research, pedagogy, and program-building work and as a mentor to generations of faculty and students. She has been one of the major figures who has built and maintained the African and African American Studies program as a space for social justice and politically engaged critical thought and action.

Panel #2: A Check Uncashed: Past & Present Projects for Reparations



Davarian L. Baldwin is the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of American Studies and founding director of the Smart Cities Lab at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. He is the author of *In the Shadow of the Ivory Tower: How Universities are Plundering Our Cities*; *Chicago's New Negroes: Modernity, the Great Migration, and Black Urban*

Life, and co-editor (with Minkah Makalani) of *Escape From New York: The New Negro Renaissance beyond Harlem*. He is also co-editor of the *Urban Life, Landscape, and Policy*, a book series for Temple University Press, and is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. Baldwin is a public-facing scholar with deep investments in social justice. He serves on the executive committee of Scholars for Social Justice and his commentaries have been featured in national news outlets.



Dr. Alan Bean is the executive director of Friends of Justice, an organization that creates a powerful synergy between grassroots organizing, civil rights advocacy, the legal community, the mass media, and ultimately the political establishment. Dr. Bean has been quoted extensively in leading news outlets such as *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *USA*

Today, *Le Monde*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *CNN*. His work with Friends of Justice has been featured in religious media outlets such as *EthicsDaily.com* and he writes a monthly column for *Baptist News Global*. He is also the author of *Taking Out the Trash in Tulia, Texas*, an insider account of the events surrounding the Tulia drug sting.



Kathleen Anderson is a third-generation master’s degree holder whose concentration was Multicultural Diversity and Organizational Development. Over the past twenty-five years Kathleen’s community involvement has included coordinator of the Parent Involvement Project, through which she initiated the “Parents are Teachers Too” workshop series; co-

founder, facilitator and facilitator trainer of the Amherst, MA Study Circles dialogues on race and class; executive board member of the international organization, Training for Change. Ms. Anderson is the past President of the Amherst NAACP Branch. Currently, Kathleen serves as the Female Co-Chair of the New England chapter of N’COBRA.



Dottie Morris (Moderator) is Associate Vice-President for Institutional Diversity and Equity at Keene State College. She serves on the president’s cabinet, providing support and direction to the executive, academic, student affairs, advancement, and finance and planning divisions of the college.

Panel #3: Tell It True: Healing Through Public Memory & Memorials



Michelle Browder is an artist, community activist, and sculptor based in Montgomery, AL. She is also the founder and owner of a history tour company in Montgomery. She blends art, history, and “real talk” in her work. This month she unveiled a visionary sculpture of the “mothers of gynecology,” who were three enslaved women—Anarcha, Lucy, and Betsey—

who in the 1840s-1850s were experimented upon without anesthesia by Dr. Marion Sims. Sims’ innovative medical procedures earned him fame as the “father of gynecology.” In Montgomery, he is honored by a statue for his work. His female victims have been forgotten until now.



Imari Paris Jeffries is the Executive Director of King Boston, a nonprofit working closely with the City of Boston and the Boston Foundation to create a living memorial and programs honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and their time and work together in Boston. The memorial is intended to inspire visitors to reflect on the values

of racial and economic justice that both espoused. Through the memorial and related programming, King Boston envisions an inclusive and equitable Boston for all. He has served in executive roles at Parenting Journey, Jumpstart, Boston Rising, and Friends of The Children. He serves as a Trustee of the UMass System, as well as on the boards of USES, Providers Council, and Governor Baker’s Black Advisory Commission. He is pursuing his Ph.D. through UMass Boston’s Higher Education Program.



Jerome Meadows is a full-time studio artist working and residing in a historic Ice House in Savannah, Georgia. Originally from New York City, he has been living in Savannah since 1997. With a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from the University of Maryland, Mr. Meadows has been self-employed as a visual artist and public space designer since 1992. His focus is on the design and fabrication of large-scale public art projects, including site layout, landscape issues, and the conceptualization and fabrication of sculptural components integrated into a cohesive whole. These projects are located throughout the US.



Elizabethada (Liz) Wright does research on the rhetoric of memorial place and on 19th-century women’s rhetoric. Her work focuses on how marginalized people find voice in societies that try to silence them. Recently she has been examining the influence of French Catholic women religious (nuns) on writing pedagogy in the US. Dr. Wright’s

work outside the academy has similar goals: she has been an activist in many areas of social justice, co-hosted and co-produced a radio show on not-for-profit companies, and owned a fair-trade company, Fa La Lo. Dr. Wright is a Professor and member of the English Graduate Faculty at the University of Minnesota Duluth.



Nadine Petty (Moderator) is Associate Vice President for Community, Equity, and Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of New Hampshire. Prior to arriving at UNH, Nadine served as Executive Director of the Center for Diversity and Enrichment at the University of Iowa, where she led a team dedicated to the success of students

with marginalized identities. Dr. Petty has over 20 years of experience in educational settings, including 14 years in higher education. For most of her life, she has devoted herself to a range of diversity and social justice

causes which include teaching cultural ethnography courses, serving on diversity-related committees and boards, and strengthening diversity and inclusion services in institutions, communities, and school districts.

Panel #4: My Home Is Over Jordan: The Role of Religion & Spirituality in Black Healing



Pamela Ayo Yetunde, Th.D., is a pastoral counselor and Community Dharma Leader. Ayo is the co-founder of Center of the Heart (www.centeroftheheart.org). She is the co-editor of Nautilus Book Award-winning *Black and Buddhist: What Buddhism Can Teach Us About Race, Resilience, Transformation and Freedom* (2020), and the author of the Frederick J. Streng

Award-winning *Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, U.S. Law, and Womanist Theology for Transgender Spiritual Care* (2020). She also wrote *Object Relations, Buddhism, and Relationality in Womanist Practical Theology* (2018). Ayo founded Buddhist Justice Reporter: The George Floyd Trials (www.buddhistjustice.com).



Rev Lauren Smith was appointed Director of Stewardship and Development at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in February 2019. Her ties to Unitarian Universalism stretch back five generations. Her great-great-grandfather William Hazel was born a free black person in North Carolina and became a member of the First Parish in Cambridge

after his family fled north prior to the Civil War. Rev. Smith served as co-minister of South Church Unitarian Universalist in Portsmouth, NH from 2011 through 2018, along with her husband, the Rev. Chris Holton Jablonski. She also served as assistant minister at the UU congregation in San Mateo, CA, and as an Island Minister of the Star Island Retreat Center.



Rev Effie McAvoy is a Full Elder in the United Methodist Church, currently serves as lead pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Church in Hope, RI, and is chair of the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (NEAC UMC) Commission on Religion and Race (CoRR). In its mission, CoRR is called to speak truth to power and hold leaders to accountability on issues of race, culture, and ethnicity.

She is a member of the Connectional Table of NEAC which oversees the work of program ministries within the New England Annual Conference. She was ordained a Deacon in 1997 and an elder in full connection to

the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1999. She earned her M-Div. from Boston University. Reverend McAvoy has received certificates from Duke Divinity Preaching Institute, Disciple Bible Study, and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in police chaplaincy. Her life verse is from the Book of Romans 12:3: “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”



L. Chris Matthews (Moderator) is associate professor of Business Administration and Management, lead of Project AIM, and director of the University Honors Program at SNHU. He holds an MBA from Roosevelt University and a Doctor of Business Administration from Argosy University. During his tenure at SNHU he has developed unique courses such as Leadership Through Dance, Innovations In Business, and Social Issues in Communities. Prior to Matthews’ time in New Hampshire, he served as director of fundraising events for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and as an adjunct professor at Roosevelt University. His research includes organizational culture, global leadership, and social justice and equity. He serves nonprofit organizations including the Endowment for Health, World Affairs Council of NH, Downtown Manchester YMCA Advisory Board, New England Names Project, Granite State Gay Men’s Association, Hooksett Area Rotary Club, and Queen City Pride.

Panel #5: The Right to Be Whole: New Modes for Healing Generational & Historical Black Trauma



Sheila Wise Rowe is a truth-teller who writes about faith and emotional healing. She advocates for the dignity, rights, and healing of abuse survivors and racial trauma, and for racial conciliation. Sheila holds an MA in Counseling. For over 25 years she has been a counselor, educator, writer, spiritual director, and speaker. Sheila is a member of the Community

Ethics Committee of Harvard Medical School, a policy-review resource for its teaching hospitals. She is a member of the Redbud Writers Guild and writes for publications including *The Boston Globe*, *The Redbud Post*, *Patheos*, *Mudroomblog*, and *Ready Publication*. Sheila’s book, *Healing Racial Trauma: The Road to Resilience* was released by IV Press (IVP) on January 7, 2020. *Healing Racial Trauma* was awarded the 2021 best book in Christian Living/ Discipleship by Christianity Today. Sheila’s

newest book entitled, *Young, Gifted, and Black: A Journey of Lament and Celebration* will be released in February 2022.



Geneva Ree Taylor is a native of Seattle, and holds an MA from Seattle Pacific University in Reconciliation and Intercultural Studies. She has focused her work on healing trauma in the Black community, through restorative practices. She believes in the practices that facilitate reconciliation. Ms. Taylor is a certified mediator who guides people through difficult

conversations at work and in the community. She trains mediators at King County’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Center. Ms. Taylor currently works as a Community Engagement Specialist for the Office of Police Accountability (OPA), where she leads in the restorative practices for Seattle Police Department’s EEO complaints. Ms. Taylor volunteers with various organizations, leading healing circles with inner-city youth and all-Black healing circles for church congregates dealing with injustices in the Black community. Recently, she started working with Washington Building Leaders of Change (WA-BLOC) at Rainier Beach High School where she is training faculty, staff, and youth in Restorative Justice Practices. To learn more about her work on healing from racial trauma please find her thesis “The Black Reconciliation” and look forward to her book in late 2022.



Melina Hill Walker (moderator) is a Program Director at the Endowment for Health where she manages a portfolio of grants, projects, and policy initiatives to advance health equity. Prior to this, Melina was a program leader for the Aging Resource Center at the Dartmouth Centers for Health & Aging. Before that, she was a grants and special projects coordinator for

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire. Melina also has extensive experience in a variety of research and project coordination roles at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Earlier in her career, she ran an independent health care consultancy. Melina also served as a senior community health planner in New York City and prior to that, worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a public health volunteer and program assistant. Melina holds a Master of Science in Health Policy & Management from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts in English/American Literature from Brown University. She has also served in volunteer and board roles for several academic and nonprofit organizations including Dartmouth Hitchcock and the Upper Valley Hostel.

Panel #6: I'll Fly Away: How We Move Forward from Here



Belvie Rooks is an essayist, educator and human rights and social justice activist whose work weaves the worlds of spirituality, feminism and ecology. Meeting Dr. Martin Luther King as a teenager at a weekend high school retreat organized by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) had a profound and transformative impact on Belvie's commitment to human and civil rights and social justice. As chairperson of the youth branch of the San Francisco NAACP, she helped organize a sustained weekly picket of the local Woolworth's in solidarity with SNCC students sit-ins in the South. During the anti-apartheid era and movement, Belvie was one of the first two women on the National Steering Committee of the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC). She was also one of the organizers of the 6th Pan-African Congress held in Tanzania. Later as Associate Director of the Third World Fund, which began at Glide Church, she traveled frequently to UN and OAU sponsored anti-apartheid meetings in Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, and Nigeria. In that connection, she was the principal organizer of the Zimbabwe Medical Campaign which successfully raised over \$250,000 in medical supplies, clothing, and equipment for Zimbabwean Refugees. Her anti-apartheid organizing and efforts and those of Third World Fund director, Ida Strickland, are referenced in the book about the US anti-apartheid movement, *No Easy Victories*. She was honored to serve as an election monitor during the transition to majority rule in South Africa and to later attend Nelson Mandela's historic inauguration as South Africa's President. Along with then Assemblywomen Maxine Waters, who served as the Southern California chairperson of TransAfrica, Belvie was invited by TransAfrica founder Randall Robinson to serve as the Northern California chairperson of TransAfrica. She was also honored to be part of one of the first US solidarity delegations invited to Mozambique by Samora Machel and the newly independent government to celebrate the end of 500 years of Portuguese colonial rule.



Kabir Hypolite is an African American single father, spiritualist, historian, writer, poet, artist, public health advocate, and humanitarian. He enjoys practicing Native American flute, West African Djembe, and Congolese Ngoma. Kabir lives in Oakland, California with his nineteen-year-old son, Hanif.



Loretta L.C. Brady, Ph.D., MAC is the director of Requity Labs, a community resilience and social equity research incubator and organizational consultancy at Saint Anselm College. She is a licensed clinical psychologist, writer, and Professor of psychology at Saint Anselm College. Her career includes a Fulbright fellowship (Cyprus) and a

McNair fellowship (UNH) where her projects have had an international and regional impact. Her award-winning writing has appeared in *New Hampshire Business Review*, *Business NH Magazine*, and she has been a source for the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and the *Washington Post* on issues related to inclusion, workforce development, and community resilience. Dr. Brady's literary agent is Ladderbird Literary founder Beth Marshea. She is currently writing her debut nonfiction book, *Technology Touchpoints: Parenting and Policy Making in the Digital Dystopia*, which is scheduled for Winter 2023 publication with Rowman & Littlefield. She received a 2021 empowerHER award from the Manchester YWCA and on the 2021 NH 200 list published by New Hampshire Business. She lives in Manchester, NH with her husband Brian and their family of five.



Bithiah Carter (Moderator) is the President of New England Blacks in Philanthropy a non-profit that assists philanthropists and philanthropic entities to support and invest responsively in communities of color. As president, she focuses on informing, reforming, and transforming the practice of philanthropic giving. Formerly, she was the executive

director of Grand Circle Foundation, senior director in the division of Community Impact at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and program director at the Girls' Coalition of Greater Boston. She has also served as a consultant in the philanthropic sector, focusing on the needs of children and families in Greater Boston and surrounding areas. Before entering the non-profit sector, Ms. Carter worked for nearly ten years in the financial services industry in New York and Boston.

2021 Black New England Conference Hosts



JerriAnne Boggis is the executive director of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, an organization that preserves, celebrates, and honors African-American history in the state. She is a writer, educator, and community activist whose work corrects the historical record on the racial complexity and richness of New Hampshire's diverse past. Through the development of community programs, exhibits, and tours, Boggis has raised the awareness of New Hampshire's

people of color and increased the visibility of Black history in the state. She believes that sharing a truer, more integrated history can change the way our country understands human dignity when it is free of historical stereotypes.

Her publications include: *Refugee Resettlement in New Hampshire, Reflections and Memories; Footsteps; Harriet Wilson's New England: Race, Writing and Region.*

Boggis was named in 2015 by the New Hampshire Humanities Council as one of the 40 most influential New Hampshireites who have vastly enriched human understanding and whose original works and passion for excellence have put New Hampshire on the cultural map.



Dennis Britton, PhD is an associate professor in the English Department at UNH and a 2011 graduate from the Research and Engagement Academy. He spent the 2012-2013 academic year researching at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, after receiving a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. *The Folger Magazine* featured Dr. Britton and his research in the Spring 2013 edition. He also was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award in 2013. The focus of his research is early modern English

literature, especially Shakespeare and Spenser, reformation theology, race theory, and an examination of how theological constructions of race shape interactions between Christians, Muslims, and Jews.



Jada K. Hebra in 2016 became the first Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Prior to SNHU, and after a stint in broadcast news at ABC in New York, Hebra spent 25 years working in the private secondary school sector designing and supporting diversity and inclusion initiatives while also serving in leadership roles such

as Humanities teacher, Associate Dean of Students, Director of College Advising, Director of Admission, Dean of Faculty, and Assistant Head of School. A restorative practice trainer, project manager, and leader with the National SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Project, Hebra works with university stakeholders to advance strategic diversity and inclusion goals. With a BA in sociology from Vassar College, an MS from Columbia University School of Journalism, and an MS in industrial and organizational psychology from Southern New Hampshire University currently underway, she draws on her lifelong passion for people and storytelling to deepen her own and others' understanding of bias and beauty across difference.



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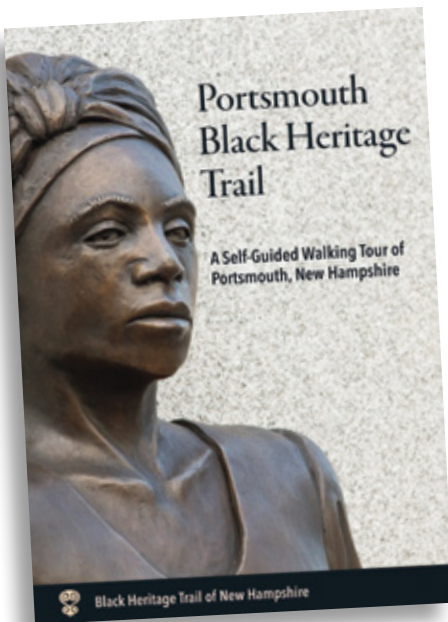
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