



**A Half Century After  
Brown v. Board of Education:  
To Remember and to Act**

**A Workshop and  
Commemoration**

**May 21-22, 2004**

**Monticello Event and  
Conference Center**



**For reservations and information call [434] 924-3296**

Image: Schoolhouse. Prince Edward County, Virginia,  
Date Unknown - Jackson Davis @ University of Virginia

## Honored Guests

Delegate Viola Batherville, a native of Richmond, has served in elected offices for 10 years at both the local and state levels. Her activism as a legislator has focused on urban revitalization and renewal, economic empowerment for women and small and minority businesses, and women and children's health issues. Through her participation in the Virginia Institute for Cultural Leadership...

*This symposium is provided by the African American Heritage Program of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH).*

The goal of the African American Heritage Program at the VFH is to create greater awareness of the contributions of African Americans to the history of Virginia and to provide a stronger basis for the interpretation of that history.

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy (VFH) was established in September 1974, as a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the humanities and to using the humanities to address issues of broad public concern.

Currently, the VFH includes: active grant and fellowship programs; a network of regional councils; the Virginia Folklife Program; special initiatives and projects including The Virginia Festival of the Book, Motherread/Fatheread, and the Institute on Violence and Culture; Virginia Arts of the Book Center and the VFH Press; program services including access to the Foundation's media center editing equipment; and collaborative projects including support for the Virginia Association of Museums, administration of the Southern Humanities Media Fund; production of the weekly radio series, "With Good Reason;" and the African American Heritage Program.

In all of its programs, the VFH works to make scholarship accessible; to promote thoughtful discussions of enduring and contemporary issues; and to broaden the range of educational opportunities available to all citizens, both in Virginia and nationwide. Central to our work is the belief that "Ideas Matter;" that – to paraphrase Jefferson – a broadly educated and informed citizenry is the bulwark of a sustainable democracy.

"Celebrating Thirty Years of Excellence in the Humanities"



**A Half-Century After Brown: To Remember and to Act**  
**Monticello Event and Conference Center**  
**May 21 & 22, 2004**

**Friday, May 21, 2004**

**6:00 p.m.**  
**Pianist**

**Reception**  
**Greer Wilson**

**7:00 p.m.**  
**Master of Ceremonies**

**Dinner/Program**  
**Robert C. Vaughan**

**Welcome**

**Musical Selection**

**Gloria Warner, Roanoke VA**

**Recognition of Honored Guests**

**Musical Selection**

**James Bryant, Charlottesville, VA**

**Dinner**

**Introduction of Speaker**

**Congressman Bobby Scott**

**Keynote Address**

**Musical Selection**

**Gloria Warner, Roanoke, VA**

**Closing Remarks**

## **Honored Guests**

**Delegate Viola Baskerville**, a native of Richmond, has served in elected offices for 10 years at both the local and state levels. Her activism as a legislator has focused on urban revitalization and renewal, economic empowerment for women and small and minority businesses, and women and children's health issues. Through her participation in the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus, Minority Political Leadership Institute, Delegate Baskerville has emphasized leadership development of the next generation of leaders. She introduced resolutions for Virginia's expression of regret for having closed schools to African American students and the recent *Brown v. Board* scholarship program

**Dr. Bill Elwood** (deceased), represented by his widow **Mrs. Mary Ann Elwood**  
William Elwood: wrote and produced the documentary film *The Road to Brown*, he was a Professor of Renaissance English at the University of Virginia from 1964 until his retirement, during his tenure he worked to recruit black students into the University's Graduate School, Bill also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and learned to pilot his own small plane.  
Mary Ann Elwood: in 1964 began the Church Woman's Preschool for African-American children who would not otherwise be able to attend what were then private kindergartens, she worked to register voters within Charlottesville's black community in the mid 1960's and is a former Chair of the Charlottesville Democratic Party, Mary Ann also authored *A Pictorial History of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia*.

**Dr. Paul Gaston** is a noted southern historian and professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, where he was known for four decades as a spirited and inspiring teacher. He is also an activist for civil rights, who was guided by his principles not only to re-interpret the history of the South but to help make it a better place for future generations. Professor Gaston was assaulted in the Memorial Day stand-in at Buddy's Restaurant on Emmet Street in 1963, and supported anti-racist activities at the university throughout the 1960s. From 1984-1988 he served as president for the Southern Regional Council, an interracial organization promoting racial justice and educational equality, and in 1998 received its Life Fellow Award. Professor Gaston is author of the classic book, *The New South Creed: A Study in Southern Myth-Making*, and numerous other works, including a study of public school desegregation in Charlottesville. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina. Professor Gaston's most recent book documents his hometown, the Fairhope Single Tax Colony in Alabama, a utopian community founded by his grandfather. He is also the author of a chapter in an upcoming book critiquing the Bush administration, *Where we Stand: Voices of Southern Dissent*.

**Rev. L. Francis Griffin** (deceased), represented by his widow **Mrs. Adelaide Griffin**  
The Rev. L. Francis Griffin played a crucial role in creating a fair and open school system not only in Prince Edward County, but in the nation. As president of the local NAACP and chairman of the Moton High School PTA, Rev. Griffin supported the two-week strike by more than 400 Moton students in 1951 which led to the *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* case. The suit was later incorporated into *Brown v. Board of Education*. As pastor of Farmville's First Baptist Church, Rev. Griffin helped unite worried parents behind the lawsuit. "I would sacrifice my job, money, and any property for the principles of right," he told his congregation in July 1951.

When Prince Edward officials closed schools rather than implement the federal court order, Rev. Griffin filed another lawsuit demanding that they be reopened. That lawsuit, *Griffin v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, provoked the 1964 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that reopened public schools in Prince Edward and helped establish a fundamental right to public education in the United States.

"I believe you could say the black people of Prince Edward County saved the public schools of the South, particularly in Virginia," wrote Rev. Griffin, who also led efforts to build new elementary, middle and vocational schools in Prince Edward.

**Mrs. Flossie Hudson** is a native of Prospect and life-long community servant. When public schools in Prince Edward County closed rather than integrate, Mrs. Hudson used the basement in her home to teach nearly 50 school-aged students in her Prospect community for four years. Mrs. Hudson is an active member of the NAACP and a dedicated community servant.

**Mrs. Barbara Rose Johns-Powell** (deceased), represented by her sister **Mrs. Joan Johns-Cobbs**. In 1951, Barbara was a 16-year-old junior at the segregated Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville. Frustrated by the refusal of the local school board to build a new high school for black students, she decided something had to be done and organized a student strike and protest. The school Barbara attended in Farmville was constructed to hold 180 students, and already had 450 when she organized the strike. Classes were held on school buses and in the auditorium. The Farmville case became one of the five cases that the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* when it declared segregation unconstitutional in 1954. After the strike she was sent to Montgomery, AL to live with her uncle Vernon Johns, because her parents were concerned about her safety due to her pivotal role in the protest. She completed her senior year at Alabama State College Laboratory High School. She then attended Spellman College in Atlanta, married, had five children and ultimately completed her education at Drexel University in Philadelphia. She worked for over twenty years in the Philadelphia public schools as a librarian/teacher. Barbara died of bone cancer at the age of 56 in 1991.

**Mr. James Wilson Kilby** (deceased), represented by his widow **Mrs. Katherine Kilby**. James Wilson Kilby, born in 1917 in Rappahannock County, was a noted civil rights activist and humanitarian in Warren County. During the integration movement in 1958, he fought relentlessly for quality education for the county's black children. In 1958, he and other parents, with the backing of the NAACP, won a lawsuit against the Warren County School Board that led to a federal court order directing the admission of 22 black students to the previously all-white Warren County High School. It was one of the early cracks in Virginia's state-mandated wall of massive resistance to public school desegregation, following the U. S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling that racial segregation in the public schools was unconstitutional. Mr. Kilby later participated in a statewide lawsuit that led to the elimination of state tuition grants, which were paid to white parents to help them send their children to private segregated schools.

**Senator Henry L. Marsh, III**, native of Richmond, earned a B.A. in sociology from Virginia Union University and L.L.B. from Howard University School of Law. Marsh joined Samuel L. Tucker to form the law firm of Tucker & Marsh in 1961. They were joined by Oliver Hill in 1965 to form Hill, Tucker & Marsh. Marsh immediately joined the fight against the "massive resistance" that was Virginia's announced policy toward the desegregation actions called for in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision of 1954. After having served on the Richmond City Council since 1966, Marsh won the mayor's seat in 1977, the first black mayor in the city's history. In 1991, Marsh was elected Virginia State Senator from the 16th Senate District and is

now serving his third term. The recipient of numerous awards, Marsh lives in Richmond with his wife, Diane. He has three children, four grandsons, and two granddaughters.

**Dr. Edward Peebles** is a sociologist, public health educator, civil rights activist, and documenter of the Prince Edward story for 44 years. For 40 of the 50 years that the Encampment for Citizenship, a youth citizenship training organization, existed, Peebles served in the roles of director, advisor, and recruiter. He participated in the February 1960 sit-ins at the Richmond Thalheimer's department store. Later he led a team of interviewers sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and Southern Regional Council in the aftermath of the 1969 Hurricane Camille in Mississippi. This activism led to reforms to eliminate discrimination in the federal disaster relief programs. Peebles has been active with the Virginia Council for Human Relations and the NAACP.

**Dr. Milton A. Reid**, retired minister and civil rights leader, is the current chairman of the board of the Virginia Unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, that he helped to organize in 1960. Dr. Reid graduated from Boston University School of Theology with a doctorate in liberation theology. In protest of Virginia's massive resistance, Dr. Reid led a Prayer Pilgrimage to Prince Edward County and three other pilgrimages to the nation's capital. Dr. Reid was incarcerated 12 times for civil disobedience during his participation in the Civil Rights movement. To add to this long list of accomplishments, Dr. Reid has preached on five of the world's seven continents.

**Dr. William Ferguson Reid**, born in 1925, was the first African American elected to the Virginia General Assembly in the 20th century. A medical doctor and community leader in the city of Richmond, Reid was one of the founders of the Crusade for Voters, organized in 1955 and one of the most formidable political organizations in the state. He lobbied for voter registration among African Americans, conducted get-out-the-vote drives, and enabled Reid to win a seat in the House of Delegates from the city of Richmond in 1967. Reid was the only African American in the General Assembly when he took office in 1968; he served three terms. Afterward he was a regional medical officer for the U. S. Department of State.

**Mr. John A. Stokes** resides in Lanham, Maryland, and is the retired principal of Baltimore City Public Schools and one of the leaders of the 1951 student strike at the R. R. Moton High School in Prince Edward County, Virginia. Mr. Stokes most recently received the Charles Hamilton Houston Pioneer for Justice Award. He is now working feverishly on the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Program and Fund.

**Mr. Eugene Williams** is a native of Charlottesville, Virginia. In the mid-1950s, Eugene Williams built the Charlottesville chapter of the NAACP into an army for change. The 26-year-old insurance company manager increased the chapter's membership from 65 to 1,500 in just two years. He brought leaders like NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall to town to inspire local members, and helped put Charlottesville on the NAACP's national agenda. The rejuvenated local chapter organized voter registration drives and mobilized community support to put an end to segregated schools. In 1955, Mr. Williams helped organize a petition demanding the admission of black children to all-white Lane and Venable schools. When the petition was rebuffed by the Charlottesville School Board, Lorraine Williams, Mr. Williams' wife, joined 11 other families in suing the board. The lawsuit contributed to the federal court ruling, two years later, ordering the admission of the students.

## Musicians

**Mr. James Bryant**, a native of Charlottesville and a graduate of Virginia Union University, has performed at Ashlawn Highlands, First Night Virginia, and with the VUU Concert Choir and the African American Heritage Chorale of Richmond. Mr. Bryant has taught choral music at Walker Elementary School (where in 1998, he was honored as Teacher of the Year), and was vocal coach for Charlottesville High School choirs. Currently, Mr. Bryant is a guidance counselor at Albemarle High school and is pursuing his M.A. in school counseling at the University of Virginia.

**Ms. Gloria Warner** is a graduate of Shenandoah Music Conservatory and University with a major in music education. Ms. Warner sang soprano with the Roanoke Opera and also performed with the Roanoke Chorus. Currently, Ms. Warner is a music teacher at Woodrow Wilson Middle School for Roanoke City Public Schools.

**Dr. Greer Dawson Wilson**, president and CEO of Greer & Company, LLC, provides consulting services to help colleges and universities, organizations, and individuals in the areas of diversity, leadership development, strategic planning, executive coaching, and organizational change. She is past president of the Association of College Unions International and past Union Director at Hampton University and the University of Virginia. Dr. Wilson is the recipient of the Butts-Whiting Award from the Association of College Unions International and received the Woman of Achievement Award from the University of Virginia. Dr. Wilson is also an accomplished pianist and enjoys sharing her music with the community.

## Addendum

**Dr. William Elwood** was also the Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia where he worked to recruit African American scholars for graduate school. Dr. Elwood also helped to start UVA's Upward Bound program.

**Mary Ann Elwood** worked with Penny Weiss to start the Church Woman's Preschool and with Fred Heblich on *A Pictorial History of Charlottesville and the University of Virginia*.

**Dr. R. A. Johnson** is a native of Charlottesville, VA. He is a graduate of Virginia Seminary and College. Dr. Johnson is most well known for rallying, marching, meeting, sitting-in restaurants, standing in hotel lobbies—all actions necessary to integrate public facilities in Albemarle county and surrounding communities. Dr. Johnson is pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Cismont and has been for forty-seven years. Separate and unequal facilities compelled him to lead families from his Zion Hill Baptist Church to advance the progress of integration in the Albemarle County Schools. He founded Charlottesville's Pilgrim Baptist in 1965—an incredible feat since he tells his granddaughter and her friends that he is 52 years old. He became the first black in the Minister's Conference in Waynesboro, VA. Dr. Johnson is a lifelong member of NAACP, and advisor to Piedmont District Baptist Association, and their Ladies Auxiliary.

**Mrs. Ida Lewis** is a graduate of Jefferson High School and chair person of their alumni committee. She attends Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church and is a proud member of the sanctuary choir. Mrs. Lewis was the first African American and first female to be employed by the City of Charlottesville sheriff's department. She was also the first African American bailiff. In addition to her active involvement in the NAACP and other civil rights groups, Mrs. Lewis was a professional cosmologist, a school crossing guard, traffic control officer and deputy in the city sheriff's office. Now retired, Mrs. Lewis is a CASA worker and is a member of the Charlottesville Regional Jail Authority.

## Musicians

**Mr. James** performed a African Am Elementary coach for C Albemarle I Virginia.

**Ms. Gloria** major in music performed at Wilson Mic

**Dr. Greer** services to leadership is past pres Hampton U Whiting A of Achieve pianist and

## Saturday, May 22, 2004

9:30 a.m.: Registration

10:00 a.m. – noon

Panel I: Virginia's Massive Resistance

Moderator **Dr. James H. Hershman** joined the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University in 1983 as a Senior Faculty Member. Previously, Dr. Hershman taught history at the University of Virginia, Wake Forest University, and Georgetown. His articles and reviews have appeared in numerous journals. Jim is a highly regarded analyst of the American political scene, and has lectured on Congress and politics before hundreds of groups. He also has extensive experience working in U.S. House and Senate campaigns. He holds a B.A. from Lynchburg College, an M.A. from Wake Forest University, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Virginia. His most recent work is an essay on the politics of school desegregation in Virginia in a book of essays based on his earlier work, *The Moderates' Dilemma: Massive Resistance to School Desegregation in Virginia* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1998).

**Mrs. Betty Fisher** was a young plaintiff in the case of *Betty Ann Kilby vs. Warren County Board of Education*. On September 11, 1958, Judge Sobeloff, Chief Judge in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, handed down his decision in Betty's favor and Governor Almond closed Warren County's only high school under the massive resistance laws. Mrs. Fisher tells her personal stories in her book *Wit, Will and Walls*. Betty attended college sixteen years after her high school graduation earning an Associates degree in Business Management; Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and an MBA with a concentration in Productivity Improvement in the Workplace. Most of her education was acquired while working full-time, going to school full-time and raising four children. She developed and implemented a mentoring program and conducted workshops on the subject of diversity to all levels of management for the African American Resource Group at American Airlines. She was laid-off as a result of the September 11, 2001 tragedy. Betty started Cultural Innovation Inc. to provide businesses, organizations, schools and individuals with cultural education products and services through her writings, diversity training, and motivational speaking.

**Mr. Skip Griffin** is the oldest son of civil rights activist Rev. Leslie Francis Griffin of Prince Edward County. It was the Griffin family who brought about the case that finally desegregated public schools in Prince Edward County after five years of being closed. Mr. Griffin holds a B.A. in government from Harvard College and an Ed.M. in Organizational and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Between 1976 and 1979, Mr. Griffin was part of the South Boston High School administrative team appointed by federal judge Arthur Garrity. The school was in federal receivership as a result of a civil rights case in which it was found that the Boston Public Schools had been deliberately segregated. Currently, as a principal for Circle Associates, affiliated with Dialogos, Mr. Griffin consults with organizations on the theory and practice of dialogue, organizational learning, and collective leadership

**Dr. Paul Gaston** (biography previously noted)

**Mr. Andrew Heidelberg** is a member of the "Norfolk 17," the intrepid group of students who in 1959 integrated Norview High School in Norfolk. Upon graduation from Norview, Mr. Heidelberg studied chemistry at Norfolk State College. A star football athlete, Heidelberg was signed by the Pittsburgh Steelers before he graduated. He did not make a career of professional football but became a corporate banker. For 17 years, Heidelberg was vice president at Fleet and Providence Bank and vice president for Barclays Bank in New York City. He is currently the chief deputy in the treasurer's office for the City of Hampton.

### Workshop 1

#### **Awele Makeba** *Rage Is Not A 1-Day Thing!*

Awele (ah WAY lay) is an award-winning and internationally known actor, emerging playwright, storyteller, and educator. She holds a Master of Arts in Education, a Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential, and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. She is a "truth-teller" and an artist for social change. She researches, writes, and performs hidden African American history. She invites audiences to wrestle with complex and emotionally laden issues that teach us about our common humanity, potential, and our purpose for "being" in the world. She provides opportunities for audiences to grapple with the meaning of their own lives as they make meaning of past lives. Ms. Makeba has mesmerized audiences from the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. to the University of Alaska at Anchorage, and she has appeared in Russia, Australia, Taiwan, France, and Canada. The U. S. Department of State has invited Awele to tour *Rage Is Not A 1-Day Thing!* in Paramaribo, Suriname, South America.



Noon

Lunch

1 p.m.

Panel 1: *Brown's Legacies*

Moderator **Dr. Stefan Bradley** earned a B.A. from Gonzaga University, M.A., from Washington State University, and Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Currently, Dr. Bradley teaches African American and American History at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. His most recent article, "Jim Crow Must Go: Black Student Activism at Columbia University, 1967-1968," is published in the *Journal of African American History*. Bradley's current research projects deal with Black student activism at Ivy League universities and the implications of the *Brown* decision on higher education.

*Brown* and Higher Education: **Dr. Peter Wallenstein**

Professor Wallenstein teaches in the History Department at Virginia Tech. Before coming to Blacksburg in 1983, he taught at Sarah Lawrence College in New York, at the University of Toronto in Canada, and on military bases in Japan, Korea, and Guam for the University of Maryland. His 200 publications include prize-winning essays in Southern history, a book on public policy in 19th-century Georgia, and a book on the history of Virginia Tech. His most recent publications are *Tell the Courts I Love My Wife: Race, Marriage and Law - An American History* and *Blue Laws and Black Codes: Conflict, Courts and Change in Twentieth-Century Virginia*.

Institutionalized Racism in America, a Legacy of the *Brown* decision: **Mr. Norman C. Neverson**

From first grade in 1951 to eighth grade in 1959, Norman C. Neverson was not educated from a formal textbook. During this time, Mr. Neverson lived in Prince Edward County where the necessary funds were not appropriated to provide "separate but equal" education for black and white public-school children. On August 18, 1959, at the age of 13, Norman Neverson walked from Hampden Sydney to Washington, D.C., searching for adequate public education, which was denied him in Prince Edward County. Four years later, he became an All American high-school football player, and by 1963 integrated George Washington University's intercollegiate athletics. In 1967, he earned his B.A. in International Affairs along with All American football honors. Over the last 30 years, Mr. Neverson, a son of Prince Edward County, has traveled all over the world as a motivational speaker, teacher, lecturer, and social activist.

Virginia General Assembly & *Brown*: **Mrs. Brenda Edwards**

Mrs. Edwards has been a Senior Research Associate for the Division of Legislative Services for almost 30 years. Her primary responsibilities are writing research policy analysis, drafting and legal analysis, and her specific research areas include education, health and rules. Her agency is the primary staffing arm to the Virginia General Assembly, this department staffs all 140 members equally. Mrs. Edwards is the first lady of the Cellar Creek Baptist Church in Blackstone, VA.

Workshop I:

Moderator **Jasper L. Hendricks, II**, holds a B.A. in Political Science and Public Administration from Norfolk State University. Mr. Hendricks is currently the African American Outreach Director for America Coming Together (ACT), the country's largest 527 political organization that is dedicated to increasing the voter turnout for the upcoming Presidential election. Has served as the National Director for Voter Empowerment for the NAACP, Legislative Aide to the President of Norfolk State University, Youth Director for the Virginia Democratic Party, and Organizer for the Juvenile Court Centennial Initiative. His volunteer activities include serving as Vice-President of Public Relations for the Coalition of Young Black Professionals, Advisory Board member of Black Youth Vote, Vice President of the Virginia Young Democrats, President of the Virginia NAACP Youth and College Division, and Vice President of the Virginia Student Leadership Alliance.

Workshop II:

Facilitator **Fred Motley**

Title: "The Civil Rights Movement in Virginia "Footprints": I'm Going to Keep on Walking, Walking up Freedom's Way."

Through use of poetry songs and stories, Fred Motley facilitates a session that used the oral tradition to engage the audience into a comprehensive discussion about the legal segregation, protest marches, and demonstrations "Footprints of the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia." The nucleolus of the session will be the demonstrations and protest marches that led to Danville Virginia's infamous "Bloody Monday" and the closing of the entire school system in Prince Edward County, VA. Over the years, the oral tradition has preserved African American history. We strive to keep this legacy alive as a means to present the truth of our culture and history from our perspective.

Fred Motley is a story teller (griot) from Danville, VA. He has conducted workshops and performed in libraries, museums, conferences and festivals in Virginia and North Carolina. Among them the Charlottesville Public Library Black History and summer reading programs. The African American Heritage festivals in Harrisonburg and Staunton, Virginia. The Juneteenth celebration in Lynchburg, VA and the African American Karamu in Greensboro, NC.

Internationalization in America, a Legacy of the Brown Movement: Mr. Norman C. Neverson

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Footprints of the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia: Fred Motley

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