

# BRIDGE

Berkshire Resources for Integration of Diverse Groups through Education

## Yolande "Du Bois" Williams Irvin Memorial Great Barrington, MA

February 18 & 19 2022

Throughout BRIDGE's tenure, we have honored the life and work of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois. For the past five years we have supported (through our organizing, staff expertise, and giving) the Town Of Great Barrington's Du Bois Legacy Festival to steward, support, and uplift our native Civil Rights icon—father of sociology, first Black Harvard PhD graduate, founder of the NAACP, co-founder of Crisis magazine, and the Niagara Movement to the world we know today in Civil Rights and academia.

This year is a special **Festival** year because BRIDGE has been asked to organize the burial of Dr. Du Bois' granddaughter, Yolande "Du Bois" Williams Irvin, who passed away in November of 2021. **This is a special reparations moment in our racial justice organizing.** Dr. Williams Irvin was exceptionally inspired by our work within this community to rightfully honor Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois in his hometown. Last year, she decided that when it was her time, she would want to be laid to rest at the Du Bois family graveyard site at the Mahaiwe Cemetery in Great Barrington, where Dr. Du Bois buried his wife, son, and daughter (Dr. Williams Irvin's mother.)

Dr. Yolande "Du Bois" Williams Irvin asked her son, Jeff Peck, one of the great grandsons of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, to make these arrangements, and BRIDGE is honored to be invited to participate. BRIDGE's CEO, Gwendolyn VanSant, spent the last couple of months learning a great deal about the more human side of the Du Bois family, looking at family photos and speaking to Dr. Williams Irvin's colleagues and closest friends alongside Jeff, so we may appropriately honor Dr. Williams Irvin in her final homecoming.

Text "Justice" to 1-844-3-UNITY-1 to contribute to the Du Bois Memorial campaign

This event is presented by BRIDGE as a part of the 5th annual Town of Great Barrington Du Bois Legacy Festival, in collaboration with First Congregational Church in Great Barrington, Community of Faith Church, Du Bois Center, Town of Great Barrington, Mahaiwe Cemetery, Shakespeare & Co., and NAACP-Berkshire. Sponsors to date: The Lazu Group, Janet Elsbach, Josie Greene, and BRIDGE donors.

### About Multicultural BRIDGE

Founded in 2007, BRIDGE (dba Multicultural BRIDGE) is a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing equity and justice by promoting cultural competence, positive psychology, and mutual understanding and acceptance. The organization acts as a catalyst for change through collaboration, education, training, dialogue, fellowship and advocacy. We are a minority and women run non-profit certified by the Office of Supplier Diversity of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (SDP). Our certified competencies are training, education, language access, and multicultural awareness.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

COVID safety protocols observed

### Friday, February 18

Jeff Peck visits Du Bois Middle School for the day, hosted by Principal Ben Doren & Du Bois students

### Friday, February 18, 7PM

#### Play: Knock Me A Kiss

Co-produced by BRIDGE and Shakespeare & Co.

Directed by Regge Life

Performance and Talkback

Tickets available at [Shakespeare.org](https://www.shakespeare.org) (event is free and open to the public; donations gratefully accepted)

### Saturday, February 19, 11AM

#### Memorial Service for Yolande Du Bois Williams Irvin

First Congregational Church in Great Barrington

Guest Officiant: Bishop Dr. James Dixon

### Saturday, February 19, 2PM

Honoring and Unveiling Service (Mahaiwe Cemetery)

### Sunday, February 20, 2PM

W.E.B. Du Bois Tour with NAACP & partners (tentative)

### Wednesday, February 23, 7PM

#### Town of Great Barrington Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois Day

Highlights from Legacy Festival at Mahaiwe

Performing Arts Center for Du Bois Memorial and

Legacy Festival guests (limited space)

To donate and for more information, contact Gwendolyn via [Gwendolyn.hvs@multiculturalbridge.org](mailto:Gwendolyn.hvs@multiculturalbridge.org). Send all pledges to [donations@multiculturalbridge.org](mailto:donations@multiculturalbridge.org) with note **Du Bois Memorial.**

### Sponsorship Levels

**Bridge-Builders** - \$500

**Legacy** - \$1,000

**Changemaker** - \$2,500

**Impact** - \$5,000

**Match Challenge for Abolitionists** - \$5,000

Abolitionists - Give any amount to help us meet an anonymous \$5,000 matching challenge

