



JOHN BROWN 150TH COMMEMORATION

**DEC. 4-5
SYMPOSIUM**

John Brown: Slavery and the Legacy of Violence in our Time
All events free and open to the public!

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

Lake Placid Center for the Arts; 7:30 PM (reception to follow)

Slavery: An exploration through contemporary film, lead by JW Wiley, Director of the Center for Diversity, Pluralism, and Inclusion for State University of New York-Plattsburgh.

Narrative and documentary filmmakers have captured contemporary situations that are equal to the personal experiences that motivated John Brown. This presentation will use film clips from their work to explore the broad context of racism in the era of Brown. Wiley writes, "situating the reality of his life in the midst of the racist times he lived will provide opportunities for us to speculate and examine some of his potential motivations for the monumentally historic actions he took." This event is presented by the Adirondack Film Society

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5

High Peaks Resort

7:45 AM - Registration Open

Coffee & Tea

8:30 AM Opening Keynote: Margaret Washington

The African American Experience. Professor Margaret Washington, Cornell authority on the black experience. Recent work: Sojourner Truth's America. Articles include, From Motives of Delicacy: Sexuality and Morality in the Narratives of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Jacobs, Journal of African American History, and Rachel Weeping for Her Children.

9:30 AM Presentation: Rev, Dr. Louis DeCaro, Jr.

John Brown, A Man of His Times, Assistant Professor of History at Theology at Alliance Theological Seminary, works include the collection of essays John Brown Remembered, and books John Brown--the Cost of Freedom, and Fire from the Midst of You: A Religious Life of John Brown.

Break

10:45 AM Presentation

Presentation: Slavery in our Time

Kevin Bales. Author: Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy (nominated for Pulitzer), Understanding Global Slavery and Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves. Expert on modern slavery, president of Free the Slaves, board member of the International Coca Initiative.

Maria Suarez, a social worker and advocate to end human trafficking.

Suarez was sold into and lived in slavery in the United States for 5 years beginning when she was sixteen years old freed only when a neighbor killed her captor, but wrongly imprisoned for that death and eventually pardoned.

Lunch on own

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1:00 PM Panel: John Brown's Legacy

Moderator: Russell Banks; Novels include: *Affliction*, *The Sweet Hereafter*, both also critically-acclaimed movies; *The Book of Jamaica* *Continental Drift*, *Rule of the Bone*, a historical novel about abolitionist John Brown, *Cloudsplitter*, and *The Darling*. President of *Cities of Refuge North America* and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Bank has taught at many colleges and universities including Princeton.

Panelists:

Kevin Bales. Author: *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* (nominated for Pulitzer), *Understanding Global Slavery and Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves*. Expert on modern slavery, president of *Free the Slaves*, Board of Directors of the *International Coca Initiative*.

Bernardine Dohrn, activist, academic and child advocate, is Director of the Children and Family Justice Center and Clinical Associate Professor of the Northwestern University School Law, Bluhm Legal Clinic. Dohrn was a national leader of SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) and the Weather Underground, and was on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List for over a decade.

George Holmes, executive director, chief operating officer, Congress of Racial Equality, Coordinated American delegation dispatched to observe and monitor free elections in Nigeria in 1996-97. Organized emergency response team to assist in the World Trade Center collapse.

Alice Keeseey Mecoy. Great-great-great granddaughter of abolitionist John Brown has researched her family history for 30 years, especially the women in John Brown's life, dedicated to war against slavery. Presented her findings to the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Saratoga Historical Museum.

Margaret Washington. Cornell professor Margaret Washington is an authority on the black experience. Recent work: *Sojourner Truth's America*. Articles include, *From Motives of Delicacy: Sexuality and Morality in the Narratives of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Jacobs*, *Journal of African American History*, and *Rachel Weeping for Her Children*.

J.W. Wiley, Director for the Center for Diversity, Pluralism, and Inclusion at State University of New York - Plattsburgh and a lecturer in philosophy and minority studies. Works to implement strategies and policies for inclusion and diversity.

3:30 p.m. His Spirit Lives On

Procession to the John Brown's Grave

Laying of Wreath at John Brown's Grave lead by Roy Innis, National President of CORE and natalie Ross, representing future generations.

7:30 p.m. St. Eustace Episcopal Church (updated location!)

Presentation of the first Adirondack Arts and Humanities Award to author Russell Banks; author William Kennedy master of ceremonies followed by a gospel concert and with soloist Michele Sweeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Events presented by the Essex County Historical Society/Adirondack History Center Museum

www.adkhistorycenter.org Phone 518-873-6466 email echs@adkhistorycenter.org

1:00 pm Westport Heritage Center, 6459 Main Street, Westport, NY 12993

\$15 donation for lectures and *The Language that Shaped the World* (Reservations requested)

RUSSELL BANKS READING FROM CLOUDSPLITTER WITH COMMENTARY

Award winning author Russell Banks will read from his national bestselling novel, *Cloudsplitter*, about John Brown, his character and his part in the abolitionist movement.

JOHN BROWN AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD LECTURE BY DON PAPSON

Don Papsen is the founding President of the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association and Curator for the North Star Underground Railroad Museum, which will open at Ausable Chasm in 2010. John Brown sacrificed his life at Harper's Ferry, Virginia in 1859 attempting to establish an Underground Railroad

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Passageway through the Appalachian Mountains. For 150 years historians have wondered whether or not Brown sheltered runaway slaves at his North Elba farm in New York's Adirondack Mountains. Some local 20th century historians concluded that there was no Underground Railroad activity at North Elba and that all of Brown's black neighbors were "ordinary" "free" "New Yorkers." Social historian Don Papson has discovered documents suggesting that the truth may have been an entirely different story.

3:00 PM United Church of Christ, Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

John Brown's casket brought to the United Church of Christ (Stone Church across from Museum). Adirondack History Center Museum at 7590 Court Street, Elizabethtown, open to the public, exhibits on display, restrooms available.

3:30 PM United Church of Christ, Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

The Language that Shaped the World, a tapestry of sounds, stories and characters portraying the human spirit and the fight for freedom. \$15 donation includes program at Westport Heritage House. (Reservations requested.)

4:30 PM Procession

Candlelit procession following John Brown's coffin from the United Church of Christ to the Old Essex County Courthouse. (Free and open to the public. Reservations not required.)

5:00 PM Essex County Courthouse

Coffin lying in state in the Courthouse with honor guard. Public may pay their respects. (Free and open to the public. Reservations not required.)

5:30 PM Deer's Head Inn

Reception held at the Deer's Head Inn, formerly the Mansion House, where Mary Brown and her companions spent the night of December 6, 1859. (Tickets required. \$40 donation to benefit the Essex County Historical Society. \$40 ticket includes the cost for all events of the day.)

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

3pm: Re-enactment of procession -John Brown's coffin brought by horse and wagon to John Brown Farm
6pm: Sword and the Spirit presented by Magpie, folk music duo.

TUESDAY, December 8

Memorial Service at John Brown's Farm, 11am

Information and reserved seating: Kristin Strack
Reservations Manager, Lake Placid - EssexCounty Visitors Bureau
518-523-2445 ext 109
email: kristin@lakeplacid.com

John Brown Coming Home is being organized by Lake Placid Essex County Visitors Bureau, John Brown Lives! and the New York State Archives Partnership Trust in cooperation with local history and cultural organizations. John Brown Coming Home is sponsored by the Visitor's Bureau, the Lake Placid Education Foundation and the New York Council of the Humanities* along with private contributions of cash and in-kind services. North Country Public Radio is the official Media sponsor.

* "Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities."

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