

KATHERINE BUTLER JONES

**AUTHOR
EDUCATOR
ACTIVIST**

I came to the Boston area 51 years ago as a young bride, a June graduate of Mount Holyoke College, and began my professional career as a teacher in the Boston school department where I worked for two years until my husband Hubey and I began a family of our own. Our eight children were interspersed with my volunteer and paid work in Newton, Boston and Cambridge including co-founding and co-directing the Roxbury-Newton Freedom School for 200 elementary school children, holding monthly meetings at these alternate sites and included visits to places related to African American history.

As a founding director of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) I wrote guidelines for participating communities and directed the METCO program in Newton for a decade after which I was elected city-wide to the Newton School Committee on which I served for eight years.

As a member of the Board of Directors of Family Service Association of Greater Boston, and The Coalition for the Homeless, combined with my election to the Board of Trustees of Mount Holyoke College provided additional opportunities for me to be an important change agent in historically significant times.

I earned my Masters degree in Urban Education at Simmons College, in 1967, taught in its graduate school of education as adjunct professor, as well as at Wheelock College. In 1980 I earned my doctorate in Education from Harvard University while serving as the Supervisor of Elementary Staff and Program for the Cambridge Public Schools. Consultant work for Education Development Center, Roxbury Children's Services, Boston School Department and Circle Associates kept me engaged with educational issues in multicultural communities.

I have published articles, lectured, and taught African American history at Boston University and Simmons College for the past 18 years, based on my discovery of my great-grand-parents' wedding certificate. Although my father was a Bostonian by birth I pursued a genealogical search of his family which brought me to upstate New York where my ancestors lived before the Revolutionary War. Exhibits of documents from this research have been curated in museums in New York City, Lexington, Massachusetts and the Adirondack region of New York State.

KATHERINE BUTLER JONES, ED.D.

Education

1957	Mount Holyoke College, B.A. Economics and Sociology
1967	Simmons College, M.S. Urban Education
1980	Harvard University, Ed. D. Administration and School Policy

Extension Courses

Harvard University	
1963-1964	Psychology of Personality
1964-1965	The Negro in American Society
Boston University	
1976	Management Information Systems

Teaching and Administrative Experience

1958-1959	Teacher, Boston Public Schools
1967-1969	Adjunct Professor, Simmons College Graduate School of Education
1966-1976	Director Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunities (METCO), Newton Public Schools
1974-1976	Adjunct Professor Graduate School of Education, Wheelock College
1976-1981	Supervisor of Elementary Staff and Program and Administrator for King and Tobin Open Schools, Cambridge Public Schools
1992-1993	Adjunct Professor Afro American 19th Century Women Simmons College
1993-1995	Adjunct Professor, African American History, Boston University

Elected Office

1973-1978	Trustee, Mount Holyoke College (elected by alumnae)
1977-1985	Newton School Committee (city wide)

Consultant Work

1976-1978	Education Development Center "Project M" increasing numbers of students of color in science and technology
1970-1974	Circle Associates – Training school personnel in Race Awareness, Massachusetts Schools
1974-1976	Boston Public Schools - Phase II Desegregation
1982-1983	Roxbury Community College Strategic Planning
1983-1984	Boston Public Schools - Develop Promotion Policy
1986-1988	Roxbury Children's Services Training Program for Day Care Providers, eligible for college credits
1990-1991	Education Development Center - Evaluation of Poverty Impact Program for The Boston Foundation

Volunteer Work

1964-1966	Co-founder and Co-director of Roxbury Newton Freedom School. 200 students, monthly program, alternating sites. Library, trips, guest artists
1966-1973	A Founder and Executive Board member of METCO
1968-1973	Chairperson - Newton METCO Committee
1973-1975	Chairperson - Elementary School Assistance Act
1975-1978	Board "Reading is Yours to Keep." Roxbury Church based program to help parents teach their children to read
1984-1988	National Association of Independent Schools Board Minority Affairs Committee (for New England)
1988	Radcliffe College Schlesinger Library Oral History Project Advisory Committee for WOMEN OF COURAGE African American Women Making Significant Contributions in Many Important Fields
1987-1992	Board - Family Service Association of Greater Boston
1989-1991	Mount Holyoke College Nominating Committee for alumnae trustee
1989-1999	Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

Awards and Recognition

1977	Newton METCO Retirement Dinner
1978	Black Citizens of Newton - Katherine Jones scholarship for Newton METCO college bound senior
1980	Massachusetts Mental Health Association contribution to community
1985-2009	<u>Who's Who Among Black Americans</u>
1986	African Meeting House and City of Boston Among contributors to the betterment of the black community of Massachusetts
1989-Present	<u>The World's Who's Who of Women</u>

Family

Husband:	Hubert.
Children:	Karen, Lauren, Harlan, Renee, Lisa, Hamilton, Cheryl, Tanya.
Grandchildren:	Alex, Shannon, Julia, Khari, Sophia, Nicholas, Malik.

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PROJECT AND RELATED WORK FOR WRITING "DEEPER ROOTS"

Research Support

- 1990 African American Institute State University of New York Albany, New York
1991-1992 Schomburg Scholar - New York Public Library, New York

Presentations

- 1993 Education Development Center. Newton, MA
"Journey To The Promised Land" Rewriting History of African Americans in the North
- February 1993 African American Institute New York City
The Butler/Weeks Story of a Northern Black Family
- June 1993 Seneca Falls, New York. New York State History Conference
The African American Community of Troy New York 1775-1850
- March 1994 Massachusetts College of Art Search for Family History
Images in Art as Methods of Recording History
- February 1994 Cambridge Community College, MA
Approaches to Researching African American History
- June 1994 Brooklyn College. New York State History Conference
The Butler Family in New York City 1890-1953
- November 1994 Mount Holyoke College Black Alumnae Conference
Keepers of the Dream
- May 1995 Cambridge Forum – Cambridge, MA
New Explorations in African American History: One Family's Story (Aired on WGBH, Boston, MA)
- February 1996 Russell Sage College, Troy, New York
African Americans in Troy, N.Y. 1700-1850
- March 1996 New England PEN Discovery Author Award non-fiction
Bunting Institute *Meme Clark-Jamaica Transition*
- April 1996 New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA.
New Explorations in African American History: Search and Discovery of One Family's Story
- May 1996 Myrtle Baptist Church, Newton, MA *Searching for Our Roots*

- May 2000 Lake Placid, New York, "*John Brown and Timbucto*"
Also on program: Ossie Davis reading speech by Fredrick Douglass in Commemoration of 200th birthday of John Brown
- May 2001 Panel Presentation on family history, Westport, New York
- June-August 2001
Adirondack Museum, New York
Silk Screen Exhibit based on my published research on abolitionists in New York State.
- February 2002 Exhibit described above shown at Brooklyn Public Library. Reviewed in *The New York Times*. Toured in New York State.
- April 2002 Museum of African American History "*Blacks in NYC 7900: A Family Story: Thede Butler, Man for All Seasons,*" Boston, MA
- October 2002 Afro-American Genealogy and Historical Society
"*A Caribbean Immigrant in the Harlem Renaissance and Beyond,*" Bedford, MA
- May 2003 Museum of the City of New York- Opening talk for Exhibit on Harlem, Then and Now. "*Growing Up on Harlem's Sugar Hill,*" New York

Awards

- 1996 New England PEN Discovery Author for non-fiction. Bunting Institute, Cambridge, MA
- 2004 City of Newton, Human Rights Commission conferred Human Rights Awards
- 2005 National Conference of Negro Women, Boston Chapter, Education Pioneer
- 2008 Teen Voices Magazine, Generational Award
- 2009 Urban Edge, Life Achievement Award

Exhibits

- 1995 July-December
Museum of Our National Heritage - Lexington, MA
The American Family: Claiming Our Inheritance
Exhibit sponsored in conjunction with the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, depicting six generations of my African American family on my research displaying documents, ephemera, photographs and video tapes.

2003-2004 Exhibit of my family memorabilia at Museum of the City of New York. Including rare letters describing race riot in 1900 displayed in conjunction with exhibit Harlem: Then and Now

Publications

1995 Spring MOUNT HOLYOKE QUARTERLY
"Keepers of the Dream"

1997 December | January 1998 AMERICAN VISIONS
"Garnets, Diamonds, and other Black Jewels"

1998 January ORION
"They Called it Timbucto"

2002 Fall The Civil Rights Movement in Newton: 1960-1980

2003 April "409 Edgecombe Avenue, Baseball and Madame St. Clair" in
The Harlem Reader, ed. Herb Boyd, Random House,
Three Rivers Press.

2003 May COPIA *"Harvest by Land and Sea"*

Media

1997 February 24th Newsweek mentions my family story in "Roots Network" article

1997 Interview on ABC Boston affiliate Channel 5 "City Line" led walking tour of my family history exhibit at Museum of our National Heritage, Lexington, MA

1997 Articles in *The Boston Globe*, *Newton Tab*, *Bay State Banner* on my family history related to exhibit at the Museum of our National Heritage, Lexington, MA

1998 Interview on PBS Wisconsin affiliate re: "The Importance of Land Ownership in the African American Community."

1999 Interview on station KPCC Pasadena CA. *Ebony* '99
"Free Blacks in New York State as Black Abolitionists"

2000 Interview – NPR Morning Edition May 16, "John Brown and Timbucto"

2003 Interview WUMB with Barbara Neeley "409 Edgecombe Avenue." on Commonwealth Journal

- 2006 Interview WBNN with Haywood Furnell On Harlem, Writing "409 Edgecombe Avenue, The House on Sugar Hill"
- 2007 Interview WBUR on Boston Center for Arts production of "409"
- 2009 Interview WUMB with Janis Pryor, Harlem Then and Now on Commonwealth Journal

Memberships

- 1989-1993 Women's Writing Group of six members. Met monthly
- 1990-1995 National Writers Union, Cambridge, MA
- 1990- Present - Womens' Monthly Meeting Reading Group "Sistahs of the Book" discussing books authored mostly by women of color.
- 2003-2005 ACT Roxbury – Promoting collaboration and presentations of films, drama, art, music in Boston.

Coursework

- 2003-2006 Offered by ACT Roxbury, three-hour weekly sessions
- 2003 September-December Playwriting with Ed Bullins. Boston, MA
- 2004 September-June Playwriting with Kate Snodgrass, Boston, MA
- 2005 September- June Playwriting with Lydia Diamond, Boston, MA

Consultant

- 1999-2004 Long range planning for Boston's African American Museum in collaboration with National Park Services and ICON architectural firm. Boston, MA

Volunteer Work

- 1998-2006 Womens' Union – Strategic Planning Committee Advisory Committee. Boston, MA
- May 2000 Advisory Committee and Chairperson of Fundraiser for Teen Voices, A magazine written by teens for teens. Brought Anna Deveare Smith to Boston for 10-year anniversary benefit at Boston's Jordan Hall. Net \$100,000.
- 2002-2004 Advisory Committee- Boston Children's Museum for permanent exhibit "Blacks in Boston" installed July, 2004.

- October 2002 Organized and presented at a panel discussion for my book, "Newton and the Civil Rights Movement: 1950-1980" Newton Free Library, Newton, MA
- November 2002 One of 15 women whose biographical audiotape was presented to the Schlesinger Library of Radcliffe College as part of the archive for the "Voice of Women" Peace Organization's Newton Chapter. A peace movement group of the 1960s-80s.
- June 2003 Arranged for 500 copies of The Harlem Reader to be given to participants at the Boston Partnership Program Annual Conference, Oak Bluffs, MA
- September 2003 Organized panel discussion of The Harlem Reader with editor, Herb Boyd, contributors, Sonia Sanchez and myself at Newton Free Library and Harvard University. (Travel arrangements, lodging, mailing lists, format, and honorarium for Ms. Sanchez.)
- 2004-2007 Mentoring Up You Mighty Race – Production Company Founder/Director Actor/playwright, Akiba Abaka
- 2010 Fundraiser for Teen Voices, Anna Deveare Smith guest

Recent media coverage related to my research and writing

- April, 2003 **The New York Amsterdam News** "Black New Yorkers: Once a Harlemiter, Always a Harlemiter" interview story
- October 2003 National Conference of Food Journalists address "Eating Your Way to Diversity" Boston Copley Fairmont Hotel Boston, MA
- November 2003 The Harlem Reader as an editorial board selection in **The Boston Globe** annual editorial: "A Bounty of Books," specifically mentioning my chapter.
- December 2003 **WUMB** Commonwealth Journal interview with Barbara Neeley on the topic, "Growing Up in Harlem."
- January 2004 **WGBH** Greater Boston, host Emily Rooney. Panel discussion about the life of community activist, educator and philanthropist, the late Ruth Batson.

- April, 2004 **The Boston Globe.** "At home with educators Hubie and Kathy Jones Keeping up with the Joneses and their activism."
- August, 2004 **Newton Magazine** cover photo and feature article "The Life of Katherine Butler Jones"
- February 2005 **WGBH** Basic Black- Panel discussion of "Black Boston" a permanent installation at the Children's Museum
- October 2005 **WGBH** Emily Rooney Greater Boston panel on "The Life of Ruth M. Batson"
- February 2006 PBS station "Civil Rights and Education," Sacramento, CA
- Spring 2008 **Mount Holyoke Quarterly** Keeper of the Dream, Instrument of Change" a portrait of professor, activist, historian and writer, Katherine Butler Jones

Drama

- May 2004 Staged reading- Scene of my play, "409 Edgecombe Avenue, House On Sugar Hill" at Egleston "Y," Boston, MA. Inspired by my chapter in the **Harlem Reader**.
- June 2005 Staged reading of "409 Edgecombe Avenue" at Hibernian Hall Auspices of Act Roxbury, Inc.
- June 2006 Staged reading of "409 Edgecombe Avenue" Act Roxbury, Inc.
- April 2007 Playwright and Producer of 409 Edgecombe Avenue: The House on Sugar Hill at The Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA

International Travel

- 1998-2009 Spain, Morocco, South Africa, Ghana, Jamaica, India, Ireland, Japan, China, Tibet, Jordan

KATHERINE BUTLER JONES, ED.D.

Dr. Katherine Butler Jones was named the New England PEN Writers "Discovery" nonfiction author in 1996, and most recently, December 2004, received the Human Rights Award from the City of Newton, Massachusetts.

Formerly an adjunct professor in African American Studies at Boston University and Simmons College, Jones lectures extensively, and has had parts of her family research exhibited at the Museum of Our National Heritage in Lexington Massachusetts, (in conjunction with the New England Historical and Genealogical Society) and at the Museum of the City of New York (2003-2004).

Dr. Jones has served as a consultant for ICON architectural firm in the formulation of long range plans with the National Park Services and the African Meeting House (Boston 2000-2004). Dr. Jones's articles on African American family history have been published in ORION magazine; 1998, AMERICAN VISIONS; 1998, COPIA, 2003; and comprise a chapter in the anthology THE HARLEM READER, Crown 2003.