

## Alliance of Ethics & Art

501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational corporation  
2 Charlton Street, Suite 6K • New York, NY 10014 • 212-691-2978  
[www.AllianceOfEthicsAndArt.org](http://www.AllianceOfEthicsAndArt.org)

Our mission is to educate the public about racism and other societal injustices, and to offer solutions based on Aesthetic Realism, the philosophy founded by the great educator and critic, Eli Siegel.

AEA supports projects which encourage greater understanding, respect, and justice between people of all races, backgrounds, and economic circumstances. Our projects are informed by principles of Aesthetic Realism stated by Eli Siegel, which explain the cause of racism and every injustice: *contempt*, the “addition to self through the lessening of something else.” The answer is learning to see another person’s feelings as real as our own by study of this principle: “All beauty is a making one of opposites and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves.” Projects include books, events, workshops and professional development by educators on how education can succeed for every child in America.

### “The Force of Ethics in Civil Rights”

This project is the ongoing oral history, which in 2012 includes 180 videotaped interviews conducted by Alice Bernstein with men and women of all races who are civil rights pioneers.



**We gratefully acknowledge support for this Somerset Run event from Dr. and Mrs. Robert Aronoff; descendants of Clarendon County petitioners: Nathaniel Briggs, Eloise Wineglass; Carolyn Conte; and Alliance of Ethics & Art project managers and creative team: David M. Bernstein, Steve Weiner, Harriet Bernstein, Miriam Weiss, Marion Fennell, and Karen Van Outryve. And we thank Dr. Haki Madhubuti, founding publisher of Third World Press in Chicago for publishing The People of Clarendon County/Answer to Racism book and for his hearty congratulations on our 5th Anniversary celebration!**

#### Nationwide supporters of the Clarendon County/Answer to Racism project include:

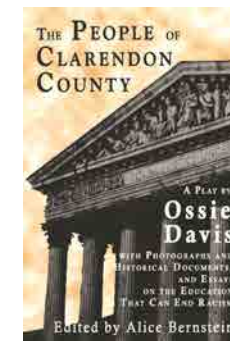
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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, NY	Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT
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Baruch College (CUNY) NY	Difference, Columbia, SC
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Jersey City, NJ	SC Black News; Tennessee Tribune; Philadelphia Sun;
Tulane University Law School, New Orleans, LA	Birmingham Times; LaVida News/The Black Voice, TX



## The Charitable & Cultural Club of Somerset Run Proudly Presents

# The People of Clarendon County— A Play by Ossie Davis, & the Answer to Racism!\*

Based on the book edited by Journalist & Aesthetic Realism Associate Alice Bernstein  
(published by Third World Press, Chicago)



**Celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of presenting this event!**

**Thursday, December 13th, 2012 • 7:00pm**

Somerset Run Clubhouse  
Somerset, NJ 08873



Alliance  
of Ethics & Art

\*This event, a project of the not-for-profit Alliance of Ethics & Art, was launched in 2007 at the Harlem School of the Arts. It has since been presented nationwide through grants from Verizon Communications, Yip Harburg Foundation, Puffin Foundation, South Carolina Humanities Council, Jewish Communal Fund, and support by arts, education, and civil rights organizations.



**Ossie Davis** (1917–2005), actor, director, writer, producer, and human rights activist, was born in Cogdell, Georgia. He attended Howard University (1935-39), the first child in his family to have a chance to go to college. Because of his love of poetry and literature, he spent a lot of time studying English. “When I first read Gray’s *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*,” he wrote, “I knew I had found a brother.”

His acting career began in 1939, with the Rose McClendon Players in Harlem. In 1946, he made his Broadway debut in *Jeb*, where he also met actress Ruby Dee. They were married in 1948 and had three children. His Broadway credits include *Anna Lucasta*, *The Wisteria Trees*, *Green Pastures*, *Jamaica*, *Ballad for Bimshire*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Zulu and the Zayda*, *I’m Not Rappaport*—and *Purlie Victorious* which he wrote and starred in on Broadway in 1961. In 1950 he made his film debut in *No Way Out*, which starred Sidney Poitier. Other film credits include *The Cardinal*, *Let’s Do It Again*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Grumpy Old Men*, and many more. He directed *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, *Kongi’s Harvest*, and *Black Girl*, among others. His extensive television credits include *Roots: The Next Generation*, *12 Angry Men*, *Touched by an Angel*, and *For Us, the Living*. He and Ms. Dee produced TV specials and “With Ossie & Ruby” which aired on PBS. His writings include fiction, essays, drama, speeches, articles, and poetry.

Mr. Davis’ lifetime of activism for social justice and workers’ rights, included work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X in the 1960s and support of Freedom Riders, the NAACP and Urban League, and the Black Panther Party. He received many honors, including U.S. National Medal for the Arts (1995), NY Urban League Frederick Douglass Award, NAACP Image Award, and Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award (2001). In 2004 he and Ruby Dee were recipients of Kennedy Center Honors.

**Alice Bernstein** is a journalist and Aesthetic Realism Associate whose articles and column, “Alice Bernstein & Friends,” appear nationwide. She edited and co-authored *Aesthetic Realism and the Answer to Racism* (Orange Angle Press, 2004). Mrs. Bernstein was born in Brooklyn, NY and majored in English literature at Brooklyn College. She had the honor to study in classes with Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism, and studies today in professional classes taught by Chairman of Education Ellen Reiss at the Aesthetic Realism Foundation in NYC. She is married to noted photographer David Bernstein. In 1982, she began writing about Aesthetic Realism as the knowledge that can end racism, with a story against apartheid in South Africa. She is a scholar and contributing writer to *African American National Biography*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Higginbotham (Oxford University Press, 2008). Her ongoing oral history project of interviews with unsung heroes, “*The Force of Ethics in Civil Rights*,” videotaped by David Bernstein, was awarded grants by Puffin Foundation, Yip Harburg Foundation, and Jewish Communal Fund—and to date (2012) includes interviews nationwide with over 180 men and women of all races. In 2010, Alice Bernstein uncovered a 1965 speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which is considered significant by King scholars, and her research continues!



Photo: (l-r) Former NYC Mayor David Dinkins, Actor Ruby Dee (wife of Ossie Davis), and Alice Bernstein at revival of “The People of Clarendon County,” Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, NYC.

**Whereas**, Eli Siegel grew up in Baltimore, and his contributions to world thought began with writings completed in this city, some appearing in such Baltimore publications as *Horizons* of Johns Hopkins University, the *Modern Quarterly*, his columns in the *Baltimore American*; and

**Whereas**, he won the esteemed *Nation* Poetry Prize in 1925 for his “Hot Afternoons Have Been in Montana,” which he said was affected by thoughts of Druid Hill Park, and about which William Carlos Williams wrote, “I say definitely that that single poem, out of a thousand others written in the past quarter century, secures our place in the cultural world”; and

**Whereas**, the honesty, kindness, and greatness of mind Eli Siegel possessed were described in the *Baltimore Sun* by Donald Kirkley: “Baltimore friends close to him at the time [that he won the *Nation* prize] will testify to a certain integrity and steadfastness of purpose which distinguished Mr. Siegel.... He refused to exploit a flood of publicity. He wanted to investigate the whole reach of human knowledge ... to discover in its labyrinth some order or system”; and

**Whereas**, Eli Siegel showed that 1) the deepest desire of every person is to like the world honestly, 2) humanity’s largest danger is *contempt*, “the addition to self through the lessening of something else,” 3) “The world, art, and self explain each other: each is the aesthetic oneness of opposites”; and his scholarship and historic comprehension are in his books, beginning with *Self and World*, the classes he taught which changed people’s lives magnificently, his thousands of lectures on the arts, sciences, and history; and

**Whereas**, this education he founded, enabling people to see the world and others with the respect and kindness they deserve, including people of different races and nationalities, is continued by Class Chairman Ellen Reiss and the faculty of the not-for-profit Aesthetic Realism Foundation, and is used as a Teaching Method with unprecedented success by educators in public schools—we salute Eli Siegel for his great contributions to knowledge and humanity beginning in the City of Baltimore.”

**2. From *The Congressional Record*, “Honoring Eli Siegel”  
by Congressman Elijah E. Cummings of Maryland  
Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus  
In the U.S. House of Representatives, Friday, July 26, 2002**

“A teaching method, based on Aesthetic Realism, has been tremendously successful [and is] an effective tool to stop racism and promote tolerance; because it enables people of all races to see others with respect and kindness....The education of Aesthetic Realism will be studied in every English, literature, and art classroom across the nation for years to come.”

## *On Aesthetic Realism & Eli Siegel*

Aesthetic Realism is the philosophy founded in 1941 by Eli Siegel, the great American poet, critic, and educator. It is based on the following principles:

1. The deepest desire of every person is to like the world on an honest or accurate basis.
2. The greatest danger for a person is to have contempt for the world and what is in it. Contempt can be defined as the lessening of what is different from oneself as a means of self-increase as one sees it.
3. All beauty is a making one of opposites, and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves.

The Aesthetic Realism Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational foundation located at 141 Greene Street in New York City. Through classes taught by a distinguished faculty, community outreach programs, public seminars, special events, and a biweekly international periodical—which includes commentaries by the Chairman of Aesthetic Realism, Ellen Reiss, on current events, history, and world thought—the Foundation provides knowledge that is new, culturally rich, personally valuable, and urgently needed.

In the Foundation's Mission Statement there is this:

Aesthetic Realism explains that the largest fight in every person is between liking the world on an honest basis and having contempt for the world. There is no more important contribution to human thought than Eli Siegel's identification of contempt as the big weakener of mind and source of all unkindness, including economic injustice, racism, war. And the way to defeat contempt is through the aesthetic criticism of self: Aesthetic Realism is the study of how we want to put together the opposites that are one in art—including care for ourselves and justice to the world.

You can learn more at [www.aestheticrealism.org](http://www.aestheticrealism.org) where you can see a schedule of upcoming events, and also explore the Foundation's Online Library, the definitive source for publications—reviews, poetry, articles, lectures, and much more.

To show further what Aesthetic Realism is, we quote from two notable American documents:

**1. From the Proclamation Honoring the Centenary of Eli Siegel  
by Mayor Martin O' Malley of Baltimore, Maryland\*  
Designating August 16, 2002 as "ELI SIEGEL DAY"**

*"Whereas*, the people of Baltimore are proud to join with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Maryland Historical Society, Coppin State College, Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute, Morgan State University, former Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, and others in honoring the centenary of the great Baltimorean poet, philosopher, and educator Eli Siegel (1902-1978), who in 1941 founded the philosophy Aesthetic Realism; and

\*Martin O'Malley was elected Governor of Maryland in November, 2006 and re-elected in 2010.

## *The People of Clarendon County— A Play by Ossie Davis, & the Answer to Racism! a project of the not-for-profit Alliance of Ethics & Art, Inc.*

Somerset Run Program

Prelude:



"The Heart Knows Better," Emmy award-winning anti-prejudice public service film by Ken Kimmelman  
PowerPoint of the history of *The People of Clarendon County*

**WELCOME** Sheila Aronoff\*

**INTRODUCTION** Dr. Jaime R. Torres

### **SOME HISTORY & BACKGROUND**

Alice Bernstein, Onilaja Waters, Dr. Arnold Perey

### **"THE PEOPLE OF CLARENDON COUNTY"—A PLAY BY OSSIE DAVIS**

Cast:

Narrator	— Marty Honig*
Mary (Lilly) Ragin*	— Mugga
William Ragin	— Allan Michael
Rev. Joseph DeLaine	— Jeffrey Williams

### **MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY BARBARA KLAUSNER\***

### **THE AESTHETIC REALISM TEACHING METHOD**

Monique Michael and Dr. Arnold Perey

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & UNSUNG HEROES OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

Alice Bernstein

Note: Ossie Davis based the characters of William and Mary Ragin on Clarendon County parents William and Lilly Ragin, whose son Glenn attended a segregated black school.

\*Somerset Run residents



## Speakers and Cast

**Sheila Aronoff** (*Welcome*) is a lifelong social activist, who volunteers in community projects and in Somerset Run's Charitable & Cultural Club. After graduating nursing school as an RN, she became the youngest Head Nurse on the Infectious Disease Floor of Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston. She demonstrated for civil rights at the 1963 March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King. Sheila met her husband Robert Aronoff at a Kent State anti-war rally held at Tufts where he attended Dental School. They have 2 sons: Jonathan David, an attorney, and Matthew Benjamin, a professional jazz musician; and a grandson. Sheila's love of fashion and flair for design led to her become a jeweler, and her designs with fine gems were featured in *Platinum Magazine*.

**Monique Michael** (*Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method*) was born in Haiti. She has an MS in Education from Hunter College (NYC), where she studied with historian John Henrik Clarke and majored in Black and Puerto Rican Studies. An elementary school educator since 1992, she has given papers and conducted workshops on the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method for the National Council of Teachers of English and National Science Teachers Association. She taught for seven years in East Harlem public schools, and is a Reading Recovery/ Academic Intervention teacher at P.S. 184 on New York's Lower East Side. Mrs. Michael is the author of the groundbreaking article "Children Learn to Read through the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method." She is a contributor to the books: *Aesthetic Realism and the Answer to Racism*, and to "The People of Clarendon County"—A Play by Ossie Davis, & the Answer to Racism.



**Arnold Perey, Ph.D.** (*Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method*), anthropologist and teacher educator, earned his BA in anthropology from the University of Chicago and his doctorate from Columbia University. His field research was with the Paiute-Shoshone nation in Nevada and the Mountain Ok people of Papua New Guinea, the latter sponsored by the National Science Foundation. His doctoral dissertation, based on Aesthetic Realism, was sponsored by Margaret Mead. He taught at Brooklyn College and Queensborough Community College (CUNY), Seton Hall University, and Drew University. He is on the Aesthetic Realism Foundation faculty where he teaches "Anthropology Is about You and Everyone." His articles include "A New Perspective for American Anthropology: The Philosophy of Aesthetic Realism" (presented at the American Anthropological Association) and "The Real Opposition to Racism." Dr. Perey is in *Who's Who in American Education*, is a contributor to *Aesthetic Realism and the Answer to Racism*, and author of *Gwe, Young Man of New Guinea: A Novel against Racism*, and *Were They Equal?* an African story for children which he also illustrated.



**Onilaja Waters** (*Background*) began her study of Aesthetic Realism in 1983 in individual consultations, based on this principle stated by Eli Siegel: "The world, art, and self explain each other: each is the aesthetic oneness of opposites." And she attends many classes at the not-for-profit Aesthetic Realism Foundation, including the Visual Arts and the Opposites, Education Workshop, Drawing: Surface and Depth, Music, and Anthropology. These classes, she says, "have added so much to my understanding of the world, myself, and people of all races." Ms. Waters is a technical designer for the fashion industry, with a wide interest in African and African American history. A subject close to her heart is Weeksville, the self-sufficient village established in Brooklyn in the 19th century by free men and women of color: workers, craftsmen, doctors, and entrepreneurs, all actively opposed to slavery, and which continued into the 20th century. Onilaja Waters' study of Aesthetic Realism and the civil rights contributions of her father Archie Waters, were featured this year in the national news story, "Martin Luther King and How the Dream Can Become Reality."



**Dr. Jaime R. Torres** (*Introduction*), an Aesthetic Realism Associate, is founder and president of the national coalition Latinos for National Health Insurance, and a frequent speaker on health matters affecting the Latino community. He is a 1999 graduate of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) Leadership Fellowship, a recipient of the 2006 NHMA Health Leadership Award, and the Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trias National Latino Leadership Award. *Hispanic Business* magazine selected Dr. Torres as one of "The 100 Most Influential Hispanics in 2009." He is co-author of *Aesthetic Realism and the Answer to Racism* (Orange Angle Press, 2004) and a frequent speaker on racism and healthcare issues. His articles in newspapers and professional journals, appear nationally in Spanish and English, and address questions of men about love, economics, depression, and racism. Dr. Torres currently serves under U.S. Secretary Kathleen Sibelius, as Regional Director of the United States Department of Health and Human Services—Region 2, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.



**Mugga** (*Mary Ragin*) Mugga's career in Acting, Stand-up Comedy and Voice Overs began in the 1990's. She can be seen in Lee Daniels' Academy Award-winning film, "*Precious*." Mugga has traveled the world performing Stand-up Comedy for American troops in Germany, Italy, and South Korea. She has also performed at colleges, universities and civic organizations nationwide. She's had the great fortune to work with many great actors and comedians including Chris Rock and Paul Mooney, and has been a featured comedian on BET's Comic View, Russell Simmons' Def Comedy Jam, and HBO's Chris Rock Show. She has appeared in stage productions which include Neil Simons' "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and August Wilson's "Fences." 2012 is the fourth year that Mugga has been working with the Alliance of Ethics & Art's productions of Ossie Davis' "The People of Clarendon County." She can currently be seen in a Macys'.com commercial and heard on several Burger King commercials. She hopes for a long, healthy career in film and television and making a positive difference in the world.



**Allan Michael** (*William Ragin*) is a photographer, an Aesthetic Realism Associate, and one of the first African American maritime captains in the New York harbor. His photographs have appeared in *Essence* magazine and in gallery exhibitions in New York including the Terrain Gallery in SoHo and BWAC in Brooklyn, and in Martha's Vineyard. His photographs also appeared in "Art against Apartheid," the traveling exhibition at major progressive colleges and universities. He is a contributor to the book *Aesthetic Realism and the Answer to Racism*. Mr. Michael studies in the class "Acting, Life, and the Opposites," taught by Anne Fielding, the director of the Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company. He made his acting debut in 2009 as William Ragin in *The People of Clarendon County* and the *Answer to Racism* at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Jersey City, and has frequently enacted this role ever since, including in the US Congressional Auditorium in Washington, DC.



**Marty Honig** (*Narrator*) enjoyed his stage debut at the Villagers in Somerset in Neil Simon's "Rumors" in 2010 and since then has appeared in many regional theater plays. He received a 2012 Perry Nomination for his work in "Our Town." His love of performing arts began during college when he did radio plays and radio announcing. Marty is an accomplished photographer whose work has appeared in exhibitions, on CD's, book covers and in the corporate world. His photography can be seen at [www.martyhonigphotography.com](http://www.martyhonigphotography.com)



**Jeffrey Williams** (*Rev. Joseph DeLaine*) taught Special Education for over 25 years (10 in the South Bronx), and for 16 years, until his recent retirement, he used the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method successfully with regular and special education students. A former United Federation of Teachers union representative and delegate, he represented the UFT in selecting mentors for new teachers for the NYC Board of Education, and was on the Executive Committee for NYC contract negotiations. In college Mr. Williams played ice hockey for CCNY, and was at that time the only African American player in the league. He won a graduate fellowship from the New York State Department of Education, and a teaching award from the American Heart Association. In January 2013 he will be honored by the UFT with the *Ely Trachtenberg Award for Outstanding Chapter Leadership*. Mr. Williams currently works as mentor for the American Meteorological Society's Datastreme Precollege teacher program, and studies acting in the class "Acting, Life, and the Opposites," taught by Anne Fielding, the director of the Aesthetic Realism Theatre Company.



**Barbara Klausner** (*Singer*) is an actor and has appeared most recently within the Somerset community in a scene from *Lovers and Other Strangers*. Last year she appeared in *Flamingo*, playing Angelina. She also performs with the Tap Tones from Somerset Run. She was in *Inherit the Wind* at the Villagers Theatre, in *Equus* as the nurse, *La Cage aux Folles* as one of the two chorus line dancers and in swing roles. *Guys and Dolls* as a Hatbox girl, *California Suite* as the hooker, *Evita* in swing roles, *Music Man* as a Community Show, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, and in *Fiddler on the Roof* as Fruma Sarah.

