

Lift Every Voice and Sing James Weldon Johnson, 1871-1938

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song
full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won
(first verse only)

For a full article about the
dedication, please visit the
Montclair Public Schools' website:
www.montclair.k12.nj.us



The Montclair Public School District extends its gratitude to the WSY Committee, Mayor Robert Jackson, the Montclair Township Council, Senator Nia Gill, Drums of Thunder and its Director Lou D'Amico, Madrigal Choir and its Director Dr. Boyce Ennis, Elvoid A. Christmas, Laura Hertzog, Joan N. Moses, Karen Christmas Solomon, and James A. Summers.

*Special thanks to our
Montclair Public Schools Team:*

**Technical Support, David Buonocore
Nina DeRosa
Roxanne Smith**

And our Montclair Board of Education:

Eve Robinson, President
Latifah Jannah, Vice President
Priscilla Church
Alfred Davis
Jessica de Koninck
Laura Hertzog
Anne Mernin

*Great by Design:
We are #Montclair Proud*



Dedication Washington Street YMCA



**May 18, 2019
Charles H. Bullock School**

About the Washington Street YMCA (WSY):

The Washington Street Y opened in 1926 and was demolished in 2005. Inspired by Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosendale, President of Sears, Roebuck and Company, donated millions of dollars to build schools for Black children in the rural south. Rosendale also helped to build the YMCAs in Black communities through a challenge grant offering \$25,000 to any community nationwide that would raise \$75,000 for construction of a YMCA in African American communities. From this offer, 24 YMCAs were built in 14 states, including WSY under the leadership of Charles H. Bullock. For many, the WSY served as a place where children felt safe and protected. It has been described as a "Beacon of Light" and a "North Star" in the Black community of Montclair for providing a complete array of programs and services that improved the well-being of individuals, families and Montclair's African American Community as a whole. It is a little-known fact that for five cents, a non-member could get a clean towel and a shower. This was significant because most Black families did not have showers in their homes. The WSY also had the only local pool where Black people could swim, and it is believed that as many as 700 Black soldiers learned to swim there before going off to World War II.

Dedication Ceremony

10:00 am

Mistress of Ceremonies:

Dr. Kendra V. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools

Welcome:

Laura Hertzog, Esq., Montclair Board of Education
Robert Jackson, Montclair Mayor
Elvoid A. Christmas, WSY Memorial Committee Chairman

Lift Every Voice and Sing (1st verse and chorus—please stand)

The Occasion:

Elvoid A. Christmas, WSY Memorial Committee Chairman
Joan N. Moses, WSY Memorial Committee Member

Opening Performance:

Hillside School's Drums of Thunder, Director Lou D'Amico

Presentation:

Montclair YMCA

History:

Dr. Kendra V. Johnson, Superintendent of Schools

Closing Remarks:

Senator Nia Gill, Legislative District 34
Councilwoman Dr. Renee Baskerville, 4th Ward
Project Manager Karen Christmas Solomon,
WSY Memorial Committee

Closing Performance:

Madrigal Choir, Director Dr. Boyce Ennis

The Unveiling:

James A. Summers and the WSY Memorial Committee

WSY Memorial Committee

Barbara Chase
Wallace Choice, Jr.
Anderson H. Christmas
Elvoid A. Christmas, Chairman
Everett T. Christmas, Sr.
Karen Christmas Solomon, Project Manager
James E. Eason
Dr. Earl Garrett, Jr.
Edward Harris
Everett Jennings
Ronald A. Morton
Joan N. Moses
James Phillips
James A. Summers
Dr. LeRoy Williams, Jr.

