



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Martha's Vineyard NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Souvenir Journal, 1988

Extracted on Apr-16-2024 10:36:40

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

Greetings from the Vice President
Dear Fellow NAACP-ers:
For the past year, I have been trying to continue the programs of our branch, in the absence of our President E. Jacqueline Hunt. Since "No man is an Island," I couldn't do it alone. I would like to take the time to thank the Martha's Vineyard branch executive board, who rallied together to help plan and execute these programs for this year. They are the kind of hard-working and dedicated people no organization can do without. They are invaluable.

I would also like to thank you the members and friends of the organization who give us moral, financial and great encouragement through your attendance and generous donations.

A special thanks goes to those loyal people who can no longer join us in our struggles, but are still willing to keep up their memberships and support in spite of personal circumstances.

Because of all of you, we were able this year to send delegates to the Regional and National conferences, give \$1,000 scholarships to two deserving young people from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, keep up our assessments and obligations to the National office, increase our membership by over 60%, enabling this branch to win a National membership award, print a cookbook and realize a hope for the future of this branch, by organizing our first Youth Division of the Martha's Vineyard NAACP.

God Bless You All!
Sincerely,
Carrie B. Tankard, First Vice President

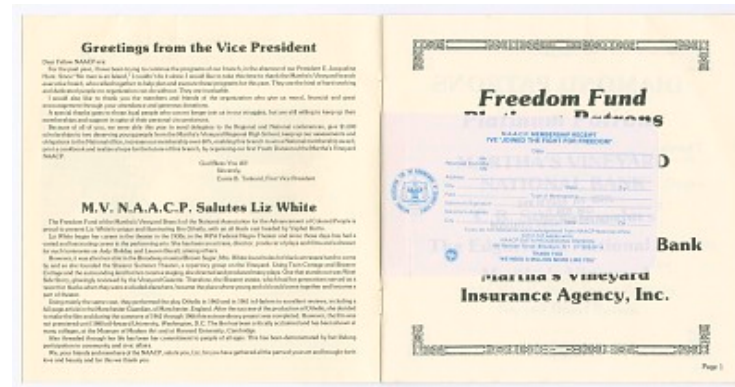
M.V. N.A.A.C.P. Salutes Liz White

The Freedom Fund of the Martha's Vineyard Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is proud to present Liz White's unique and illuminating film, *Othello*, with an all-black cast headed by Yaphet Kotto.

Liz White began her career in the theater in the 1930s, in the WPA Federal Negro Theater and since those days has had a varied and fascinating career in the performing arts. She has been an actress, director, producer of plays and films and a dresser for such luminaries as Judy Holiday and Lauren Bacall, among others.

However, it was after her stint in the Broadway musical *Brown Sugar*, Mrs. White found roles for black actresses hard to come by and so she founded the Shearer Summer Theater, a repertory group on the Vineyard. Using *Twin Cottage* and *Shearer Cottage* and the surrounding land for her creative staging, she directed and produced many plays. One that stands out was *West Side Story*, glowingly reviewed by the *Vineyard Gazette*. Therefore, the Shearer estate, which had for generations served as a resort for blacks when they were excluded elsewhere, became the place where young and old could come together and become a part of theater.

Using mainly the same cast, they performed the play *Othello* in 1960 and in 1961 in Harlem to excellent reviews, including a full-page article



in the Manchester Guardian, of Manchester, England. After the success of the production of Othello, she decided to make the film and during the summers of 1962 through 1966 this extraordinary project was completed. However, the film was not premiered until 1980 at Howard University, Washington, D.C. The film has been critically acclaimed and has been shown at many colleges, at the Museum of Modern art and at Harvard University, Cambridge.

Also threaded through her life has been her commitment to people of all ages. This has been demonstrated by her lifelong participation in community and civic affairs.

We, your friends and members of the NAACP, salute you, Liz, for you have gathered all the parts of your art and brought forth love and beauty and for this we thank you.

Martha's Vineyard NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Souvenir Journal, 1988
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-16-2024 10:36:40



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)