

*Oh Deep in My Heart:
Reaching Toward Togetherness in Classrooms and Beyond*



*New DuBois High School renamed
Mount Hope High School in 1956*

Mountain of Hope Organization, Inc., a local educational foundation, will convene a free public forum, “Oh Deep in My Heart,” in Mount Hope, West Virginia at the Mount Hope Presbyterian Church, 412 Main Street, on October 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. In 2016 Mountain of Hope launched an interracial oral history project exploring racial integration in school life from the 1950s - '70s. At the forum Dr. Michael Nobel Kline, Carrie Nobel Kline and OH Jackson Napier of Talking Across the Lines, LLC will air diverse Mount Hope voices from recorded interviews and show photos from this period, allowing time for public response and discussion.

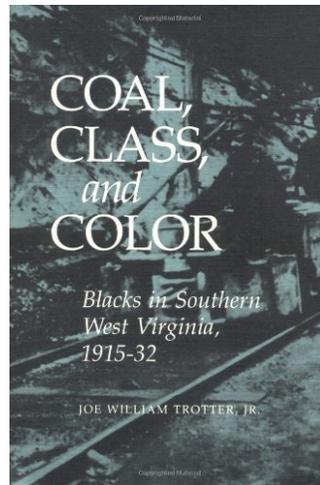
As a keynote to this intriguing exchange, Professor Joseph Trotter, author of *Coal, Class, and Color*, will address the larger context of desegregation in the coalfields with references to his own school days in McDowell County. At the conclusion audience questions and reflections will be welcome, followed by informal conversation over refreshments.

1956, Mount Hope, Fayette County, West Virginia:

A white and a black high school desegregate. DuBois, the black high school, newly opened, is selected for the site of the merge. DuBois is renamed Mount Hope High School. Gains and losses are substantial, but the transition is peaceful. Lifelong relationships are forged between students across color lines, just as their fathers formed bonds among themselves as European immigrants, African Americans and native whites in the local coal mines. This is the story of the evolution of race relations in a West Virginia coal town from the 1950s - '70s as told through layered excerpts of recordings

with alumni, faculty, and staff.

"Oh Deep in My Heart," soon to be renamed "Hope," is an interracial oral history project set in Mount Hope, West Virginia. It provides public access to issues of ethics, history, education, race, gender, labor and multiculturalism. Mountain of Hope and Talking Across the Lines have collected 40 oral histories of eyewitness accounts about school and community life in the 1950s - '70s. Faculty, staff and alumni tell of classroom life, choir room harmonies, and championship football games that served as catalysts to positive integration.



Dr. Trotter is Giant Eagle Professor of History and Social Justice and past History Department Chair at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is the Founder and Director of Carnegie Mellon's Center for Africanamerican Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE). A native of southern West Virginia and researcher on African American history from the slave trade to the present, Dr. Trotter's research focuses extensively on the relationships between African Americans and the coal industry.

The West Virginia Humanities Council will sponsor the event, along with Mountain of Hope. Other project partners include Mount Hope Heritage & Hope, Inc., The DuBois on Main Museum, The West Virginia State Archives, and The National Coal Heritage Area.

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*West Virginia
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