



RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)

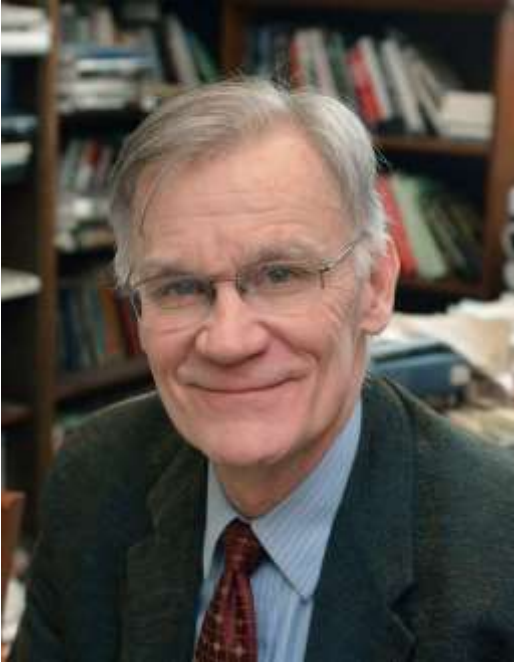
Invites you to its meeting **May 29 at 11:00 a.m.**

First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT

Professor David Blight

2019 Pulitzer Prize Winner for his book:

"Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom"



Frederick Douglass (1818–1895), the escaped slave who became the greatest orator of his day and a leading abolitionist and writer of the era, stands as the most important African-Americans of the nineteenth century. David Blight, who has just been awarded this year's Pulitzer Prize in history for his magnificent biography, "Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom," will speak on Douglass and his unyielding crusade "in the pursuit of racial justice."

At the age of twenty, Douglass escaped from slavery in Baltimore, Maryland and found refuge with abolitionist William Garrison in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He soon became a leading voice in the abolitionist movement and brought the brutal inhumanity of slavery to the attention of American audiences. The story of Douglass's early life became a testament to the evils of slavery which he recounted in three autobiographies.

After starting his own newspaper, *The North Star*, Douglass eventually broke with Garrison, primarily over Douglass's advocacy of more forceful measures to oppose slavery and over enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act. Douglass became a political abolitionist, a Republican, and eventually a Lincoln supporter. He denounced the premature end of Reconstruction and the emerging Jim Crow era. In his unique and eloquent voice, written and spoken, Douglass was a fierce critic of the policies of the United States that did not fully address the problems of racism.

David Blight has written prolifically on Douglass, the history of emancipation, the Civil War, and the dynamic, ever-changing nature of Civil War memory. His books include "Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory"(2001), "A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including their Narratives of Emancipation" (2007), and "American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era" (2011) which received the 2012 Anisfield-Wolf Award for best book in non-fiction on racism and human diversity. Blight has a Ph.D.

from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Accorded many honors for distinguished scholarship, he has held numerous prestigious academic positions, including the **William Pitt Professor of American History at Cambridge University, UK** in 2013-14. Today he is the **Class of 1954 Professor of American History** and Director of the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University.

Next Week: June 5: Robert S. Wylie, World War II Vet, D Day, Operation Overlord, Six of June, 1944, Witness & Participant” *The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at 10:40 AM followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00 AM. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see www.greenwichrma.org or contact info@greenwichrma.org*