

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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Record Crowds Celebrate July 4th at Monticello

There is no more inspirational place than Monticello to commemorate our nation's birthday. On July 4, 2014, Monticello hosted its 52nd Annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony, welcoming over 70 of America's newest citizens. Monticello's event is the oldest continuous naturalization ceremony held outside of a courtroom. Since 1963 over 3,000 citizens from around the world have taken the oath of citizenship on the iconic West Lawn. The most poignant moment occurs when the presiding judge invites the newly sworn citizens to share their stories—their journeys to citizenship and their aspirations for the future.

David M. Rubenstein, best known as co-Founder and co-CEO of The Carlyle Group, delivered an inspiring keynote address. Rubenstein's efforts to protect and share important historical and cultural treasures have been widely celebrated. In addition to owning several copies of the Declaration of Independence, he purchased the last privately owned copy of the 1297 Magna Carta, which is on permanent loan to the National Archives. His



“The only birthday I ever commemorate,’ replied he, ‘is that of our Independence, the Fourth of July.’”

—MARGARET BAYARD SMITH ON THOMAS JEFFERSON,
The First Forty Years of Washington Society



copy of the Emancipation Proclamation—signed by Abraham Lincoln—resides in the Oval Office, and his copy of the 13th Amendment is on view at the Smithsonian. He contributed funds to repair damage sustained by the Washington Monument in the 2011 earthquake.

Speaking to an audience of over 2,500, Rubenstein shared his own family story, starting in the Ukraine in the early part of the 20th century.

“Whatever I have achieved in life could certainly not have been achieved as readily elsewhere,” he said. “Whatever I now try to do to

give back to my country, I am doing because I am grateful for the blessings this country has bestowed upon me. I clearly have benefited throughout my life from my own belief that the American dream—first articulated by Thomas Jefferson—can become the American reality.”

Rubenstein welcomed the new citizens, who hailed from 39 different countries, and cited an extraordinary list of immigrants who “changed the course of our country’s history” (see right).

By tradition, July 4th celebrations at U.S. embassies are the biggest embassy events of the year. Monticello’s ceremony reached audiences around the globe this year thanks to the U.S. State Department, which brought a delegation of foreign journalists to July 4th on Jefferson’s mountaintop. The Monticello ceremony was featured in broadcast and print stories in China, Bulgaria, Vietnam, Bosnia & Herzegovina, France, Russia and Pakistan, to name a few nations. The ceremony was also streamed live on monticello.org.

The morning included performances by Christopher Job, who recently debuted at the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall, and patriotic music by the Charlottesville Municipal Band.

Visit www.monticello.org/july42014 to read the full text of David M. Rubenstein’s speech and watch the recorded ceremony.



Keynote speaker David Rubenstein and Leslie Greene Bowman greet a new citizen on July 4.

Immigrants Who Transformed America

Cited by David M. Rubenstein, keynote address, Monticello, July 4, 2014

Alexander
Graham Bell

Andrew
Carnegie

Madeline
Albright ▶

Henry Kissinger

Vladimir
Horowitz ▶

Isaac Stern

Martina
Navratilova

Hakeem
Olajuwon

Saul Bellow

Elie Wiesel

Irving Berlin

John Lennon ▶

Gloria Estefan

Yo-Yo Ma

I.M. Pei ▶

Frank Gehry

Andy Grove

Sergey Brin

Enrico Fermi

Albert Einstein ▶

Jane Randolph,
Thomas Jefferson’s
mother

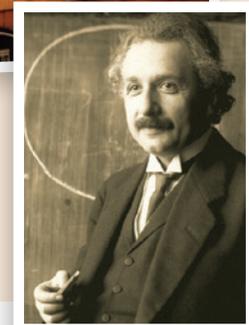
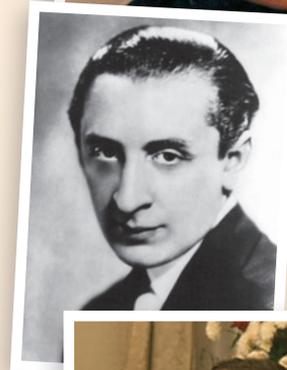


Photo by Roy Kerwood