



SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007 ROCHESTER, NY

## News

*For Immediate Release*

**Community Invited to Celebrate Heritage at  
Frederick Douglass Freedom Festival  
Sunday September 30, 2-6 p.m. – Free!  
Susan B. Anthony Square  
**Entertainment, Tours, Arts & Crafts & More!****

*Rochester, NY—September 13, 2007* –The community is invited to the Frederick Douglass Freedom Festival to come together and celebrate our community's unique heritage and contributions to freedom and to pay tribute to Frederick Douglass, one of our own and America's greatest freedom heroes.

For families and people of all ages, the free celebration will be held in Rochester's historic Susan B. Anthony neighborhood on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 p.m. The festival concludes the Frederick Douglass International Underground Railroad Conference being presented by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and the Rochester Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission.

It will be a fitting conclusion to the International Frederick Douglass Underground Railroad Conference, September 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>, which will bring noted presenters and attendees from all over the country and Canada to discuss Frederick Douglass and Underground Railroad history. Keynotes include journalist Juan Williams, actor Darryl Van Leer and historian and educator Bernice Johnson Reagon.

Come and see several of Rochester's most talented artists, who will bring 19<sup>th</sup> century Rochester alive.

**Main Stage Entertainment - Susan B. Anthony Square Park, off West Main  
Between Madison & King Streets**

- AKWAABA and Rochester Museum & Science Center enactors in period dress will portray historical figures, including Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony,

Isaac and Amy Post, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosetta Douglass, Anna Murrey, Rev. Germaine Logan and Jacob P. Morris.

- Sing along to old spirituals sung by gospel choirs and Civil War era music performed by the Fiddlers of the Genesee.
- See the talented Thomas Warfield dance.
- Listen to area students who will share original slam poetry performances.
- Be there as friends of Frederick Douglass introduce the talents of some of the national winners of the Frederick Douglass Oratorical Contest held in Washington, D.C. every year.

### **Free Attractions and Tours**

- The Susan B. Anthony House will open its doors for free tours and is offering a special video presentation of Rochester's role in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Freedom Movement played in the Carriage House all afternoon.
- The Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association will offer tours of the historic neighborhood; tour guides will be in period dress.

### **More Festival Highlights!**

- Food available for purchase from the neighborhood's Café Underground Railroad.
- Homemade teas available for purchase from Tea Lady, and more!
- Hand made arts and crafts for sale celebrating Underground Railroad history,
- Display of books written by Rochester students on Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony.
- Display on the student literacy project "Youth Voices from the Underground Railroad," a youth component of the Conference, which will continue throughout the academic year in several Rochester schools and neighborhood centers. The children read the book "*Freedom Crossing*" by Margaret Goff Clark and will then get on a bus to follow the path of a teenage girl and her brother aiding a 12-year-old escaping slave across upstate New York to Canada.
- Have your picture taken with Frederick Douglass at the "Let's Have Tea" sculpture by Pepsy Kettavong courtesy of Kodak and its special Picture Maker kiosk. Take your photo home that afternoon. Bring your own cameras.
- Voter registration booth, courtesy of the League of Women Voters, who will encourage us to continue to exercise our right to vote, a privilege we have thanks to two great Rochesterians, Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, who dedicated their whole lives to getting the vote for Blacks and women.

The Freedom Festival is sponsored by 13 WHAM TV, Bausch & Lomb, the Susan B. Anthony House and the Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association.

For more information on the Conference and the Freedom Festival please visit [www.workforcediversitynetwork.com](http://www.workforcediversitynetwork.com).

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