



SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2007 ROCHESTER, NY

## News

*For Immediate Release*

### **Frederick Douglass International Underground Railroad Conference Continues Saturday!**

**Bernice Johnson Reagon is Today's Keynote**  
**Freedom Festival is Sunday**



*Rochester, NY—September 28, 2007—*The Frederick Douglass International Underground Railroad Conference continues Saturday starting at 9:15 a.m. with keynote address by Bernice Johnson Reagon and a full day of concurrent sessions at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

#### **Today's Highlights:**

8- 9 a.m. - Registration – register at the door, \$75 for full day, \$25 per person, \$20 students for Bernice Johnson Reagon keynote only.

#### **9:15 - 10:15 - Keynote - Bernice Johnson Reagon, Lilac Ballroom**

Professor Emerita of History at American University, Curator Emerita at the Smithsonian's, National Museum of American History and served as the 2002-2004 Cosby Chair of Fine Arts at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA.

#### **10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**

- Learning from the Legacy of Women's Resistance to Slavery: Why Northern Slavery Cannot be Ignored - Delores Walters
- Uncle Tom's Cabin as Parable: Harriet Beecher Stowe's Sermon - Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck
- Sites of Conscience: From the Underground Railroad to Women's Rights in Upstate New York - Judith Wellman
- The Underground Railroad, The Underground Railroad, Abolitionism and Women's Rights Activism in Seneca County - Walter Gable
- Role of the USCT in the Resistance and Liberation of Enslaved Americans - Harry Bradshaw Matthews

#### **1:15 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

- Genealogy - Tony Burroughs

- 21st Century Classroom meets 19th Century History - Claudine Dixon & James Schroeder
- Working for Freedom - Genesee Community Charter School 2006-2007 5th Grade Class The Influence of Upstate New York Abolitionists on the Western Illinois Underground Railroad and the 5th Lincoln-Douglas Debate - Owen W. Muelder
- Chautauqua County: A Slave Capture, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Eber Pettit and More - Karen Livsey
- The Underground Railroad - An International Embrace - Linda Cousins-Newton

#### **2:45 - 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**

- Harriet Tubman's Personal Network to Freedom: The Importance of Family and Community along the UGRR - Kate Clifford Larson
- The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route - Exploring History by Bicycle - Virginia Sullivan & Dr. Stephen Thomas
- Patrick & Me: A Family Saga of The Underground Railroad - Anthony M. Cohen
- Waterways to Freedom - Donald Earl Papson
- Frederick Douglass, Hip Hop Head - Rickerby Hinds

#### **4:00 p.m. - Closing Plenary Session: Sankofa - The Story and Legacy of Freedom**

**Fighters** - Two theatrical recreations, one set in the city of Rochester in 1859 and the other on an Alabama plantation in 1862, will illuminate and interpret the impact of the struggle for freedom in the United States on the moral and spiritual development of two ordinary but singular young people. The audience will be invited to participate. Reception to follow, Lilac Ballroom

#### **Other Highlights**

- 80-foot Exhibit on Underground Railroad created by Nazareth College students.
- 16 exhibitors and vendors including Moodmakers Booksellers, which will sell a wide selection of books.

The two-day conference Sept 28 and 29 brings to life one of America's most remarkable stories and illuminate compelling accounts of courageous people and historic places.

Attendees have registered from more than 10 states and Canada to hear 35 of the nation's leading authorities on the Underground Railroad. Experts will present the latest research, genealogical connections, regional and international collaborations, parallels to slavery and civil rights, and how to use this information in the classroom.

Dr. Alfreda Brown, Conference Chair and Chief Diversity Officer for Rochester Institute of Technology said, "This conference will provide an extraordinary opportunity for educators, researchers, curators, historians and others to attain a better understanding of how the Underground Railroad has impacted who we are today and how relevant this heroic and triumphant struggle is to addressing current social and cultural issues."

"The Frederick Douglass International Underground Railroad conference is one of our key initiatives," said Spencer Crew, President, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center of Cincinnati, which is an organizer of the event with the Rochester/Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission in Rochester, NY. "The event serves as a vehicle to preserve the legacy of Frederick Douglass, to further Underground Railroad research and help encourage community pride in Rochester's local history."

**Freedom Festival Sunday 2-6 p.m. Free! - Susan B. Anthony Square, Madison St.**

Enjoy free entertainment, historical reenactments, tours of area historic places including the Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood and the Susan B. Anthony House, and more activities for the whole family. Sponsored by 13 WHAM TV, Bausch & Lomb, Susan B. Anthony House and Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood Association.

**2:00 - 2:10**

Nat Turner Drum Circle

**2:10 - 2:30**

Welcome & Announcements

Dr. Keith Jenkins Emcee

Dr. Alfreda Brown, FDIURC Chair

Commissioner Reeves, City of Rochester

Hanif Abdul-Wahid, County of Monroe

Deborah Hughes, Dir. Susan B. Anthony House

**2:30- 3:00**

Spiritual performed by Nadine Carey

Frederick Douglass, Abolitionist, Publisher "The North Star"

Anna Murray Douglass, Wife of Frederick Douglass

Rosetta Douglass, Oldest Daughter of Frederick Douglass

Susan B. Anthony, Friend of Frederick Douglass, Suffragist

**3:00-3:30**

Jefferson Avenue 7th Day Adventist Church Sanctuary Choir

Thomas Warfield & Nadine Carey Performance

Thomas Warfield Audience Interaction

**3:30 - 4:00**

Harriet Jacobs, Author, "Incidences in the Life of a Slave Girl"

Fiddlers of the Genesee, Civil War era songs

**4:00 - 4:30**

Gerald Hunt, Dir. Frederick Douglass Resource Center

Pepsy Kettavong. Sculptor, "Let's Have Tea"

Frederick Douglass & Susan B. Anthony

Speeches: "Friends of Frederick Douglass"

William Lewis, Retired Principal & Board Member

Andrea Johnson, Student Oratorical Winner

Jolissa Woods, Student Oratorical Winner

**4:30 - 5:00**

Mt. Olivet Church Choir Performance

Sojourner Truth, 19th Century Women's Rights Lecturer

Jacob P Morris, Barber & Abolitionist

**5:00 - 5:30**

Rev. Jermain Loguen, King of UGRR Syracuse

Harriet Tubman, Moses of the Underground Railroad

Isaac Post, Rochester Businessman & abolitionist

Fiddlers of the Genesee, Civil War era Songs

**5:30 - 6:00**

Spiritual performed by Nadine Carey  
2007 RocCity Teen Slam Team, Freedom themes  
Frederick Douglass Final Words

Frederick Douglass spent 25 years in Rochester. He became the most celebrated African American of the 1800s, a visible public representative of African Americans and the public conscience of a great moral struggle familiar to all Americans. In 1847 Rochester, Douglass launched an assault on slavery through the power of the press, establishing the *North Star*, one of the most influential African American antislavery papers.

**Agenda, Fees, Registration & Presenter Information**

Register at the door. For details see <http://www.workforcediversitynetwork.com/iur>. The full Conference fee including all keynotes is \$150. Tickets for keynote events may also be purchased individually except for the Juan William's keynote, which is sold out for non full conference attendees.

**Conference Organizers and Sponsors**

The Conference is presented by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Rochester/Monroe County Freedom Trail Commission, and made possible through the generous support of Xerox, The Community Foundation, Monroe County, the City of Rochester, Heritage New York, Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester Institute of Technology, Senator Jim Alesi, the University of Rochester, Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, Janet Buchanan Smith Charitable Checking Account, RG&E, Wegmans, Bausch & Lomb, 13WHAM TV, Alstom Signaling Foundation, Workforce Diversity Network, Rochester City School District, Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College, and the Winters Family Fund to Promote Diversity and Inclusion.

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