Call to Action - - -

Become an agent of change for an equitable and just society!

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Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.
194 Livingston Avenue, Albany, NY 12210

The Voice of Black Abolitionists and Freedom Seekers and their relationship with us today

Learn the Past, Be the Present, Create the Future®

Prepared March 2020

Doing It Differently

The 2019 Annual Report for Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc.

Learn the Past, Be the Present, Create the Future®

The Voice of Black Abolitionists and Freedom Seekers
Mission
URHPCR researches and preserves the local and national history of the anti-slavery and Underground Railroad movements, their international connections, and their legacies to later struggles, engaging in public education and dialogue about these movements and their relevance to modern society, empowering people of all ages to be agents of change toward an equitable and just society.

Vision
Inspired by the reclamation of the voices of Underground Railroad activists written out of American history and whose goal was to insure that all Americans had the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (Preamble, Declaration of Independence), Underground Railroad History Project seeks to empower multi-age, diverse audiences through education, dialogue, and program experiences, to learn about the work of these historic justice activists, to explore their relationship with us today, and to come to understand that each of us can be agents of change, as were the 19th century abolitionists, so as to positively influence local, regional, national, and global developments for the benefit of all.

Purpose
Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region is a non-profit organization that seeks to:

1. **Promote and encourage knowledge and understanding** of the Underground Railroad Movement and its genesis and legacy in the Capital Region and in New York State, and as a significant element of the history of the U.S.;

2. **Acknowledge** the participation in, cooperation among, and felicity between African- and other Americans in the Underground Railroad Movement;

3. **Promote and encourage historical research** on the Underground Railroad Movement in the Capital Region, in New York, and in the U.S.;

4. **Gather, preserve, display, and make available for study** artifacts, relics, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records and materials relating to the history of the Underground Railroad Movement in the Capital Region and New York State;

5. **Encourage the suitable marking of places of historic interest** relating to the Underground Railroad Movement in the Capital Region;

6. **Purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise acquire the title to or the custody of historic** sites and structures relating to the Underground Railroad Movement in the Capital Region, to preserve and maintain such sites and structures, and to interpret them for the benefit of the public.
DONORS (cont’d)
Randolph Treece
Willie Terry
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Charles Touhey
Barbara Traver
Larry Tune
Leroy & Brenda Twiggs
Ann Von Linden
Meg Walter
George Webb
Laura Wells
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Andrea Wilkins
Dorothy Wilsey
Judith Wing
Katherine Wolfram
Sheila Wrede
Jennifer Yezzi
Fr. Peter G. Young

DATA OF INTEREST -  -  -  -

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A WORD FROM THE URHP BOARD PRESIDENT -  -  -  -
We’re doing things differently at Underground Railroad History Project and we’re glad that you are walking with us on this transformative journey. Your participation with us impacts the lives of so many people, young and older, from within and beyond the Capital Region. The Myers Residence has become the centerpiece of the work of URHP, is home to tours, teen programs, community programs, contributing to community revitalization, and fostering pride in a period of American history that is the beginning of the American civil rights movement. The annual, three-day public history conferences that link principles of the Underground Railroad to current challenges, public presentations to community groups far and wide, as well as collaborations with local, statewide, national and international organizations, agencies, and institutions, continues to expand the impact of the transformative work of URHP. Thank you for walking with URHP on this inspiring journey as we work together to learn the past, be in the present, and create a more just future.

Sharon Robinson, Board President

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT — Your support has transformed lives - - - - -
I have learned so much about being a leader, about Stephen and Harriet Myers, the Underground Railroad, and why it's important to pay attention to history. (Clayton)

Our tour of The Myers Residence was interactive and very informative. We were amazed by everything we learned. We definitely will let other people know about this inspiring place.

We had fun and want to come back to learn more and play with the 19th century toys! (Boys and Girls Club)

As a Hudson High School senior, because of my work with Underground Railroad History Project, I have a new understanding and respect for Abolitionists and their work for justice.

I never knew learning about history and its relationship with me could be so much fun. (Zilva)

Camp-ins at The Myers Residence are so cool. I have never been allowed to sleep in a historic house before! I want to bring my teacher here so he can see how cool this place is! (Kiri)
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and DEVELOPMENT — Your support helps bring history alive in so many ways — — — —

Yvonne Abunaw  
Harriet Alonso  
Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Albany County Historical Association  
Albany District Chapter Links  
Albany Public Library  
American Volkspport Assoc.  
Lisa Anderson  
Arbor Hill Public Library  
Mary Bailey  
Kenneth Baker  
Lisa Barlow  
Karl Barbir  
Michael Barrett  
Barbara A. Barthel  
Bethlehem Public Library  
Anthony Brankman  
Edward Brown  
Mary & Megan Brown  
Jennifer Burns  
Joan Butcher  
Kimberly Buttes  
Yolanda Caldwell  
Sharon Calhoun  
C&S Foundation, Inc.  
Capital District Civil War Round Table  
William Carrigon  
Christina Carsey  
Sharon Cassel  
Deb Cavanaugh  
Linda Chalmers  
Kenneth Claffin  
Natalie Criscione  
Tara Cristalli  
Khalen Cruden  
Christina Cummings  
Sara Darby  
Jim Dease  
Gary Dinnebeil  
Barbara DiTommaso  
Timothy Doherty  
Susan Dubois  
Dennis & Gretchen Duling  
East Greenbush Public Library  
Maud Easter  
Eastwyck Village  
Winifred Eisen  
Patricia Eldridge  
Thomas Ellis  
Deborah & Eric Fagans  
Carol Felson  
Thomas Fenlon  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Linda Fisher  
Darryl O. Freeman  
Ron Gardner  
Matthew George  
John Golden  
David Goodall  
David Goodrich  
Susan Govern  
Carol & Roger Green  
Lewis & Irene Greenstein  
Worth Grettler  
Deborah Haber  
Viola Hall  
Holiday Hammond  
Annarness  
Susan M. Hasswell  
John Hatch  
Diane Housslander  
Paula Hennessy  
David Hernandez  
Ann Marie Hesser  
Patricia Hicks  
David Hochfelder & Ann Pfa  
Judith Houdendal  
Julia Holcomb  
Howe Branch Public Library  
Lucinda Higgins  
Inspire Me Fit LLC  
Suzanne Isakson  
Beverly Ivey  
Sibyllen Jennings  
Annette Johnson  
Mary Ellen Johnson  
Alethia Jones  
Sharon Jones  
Ruth Kassel  
Ruth Kastner  
Eileen Kawola  
Kinderhook Public Library  
Stephen Kineke  
Anne King  
Matthew Kirk  
Michelle Kobou  
Krispines Auto Repair  
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Benita Law-Diao  
Howard Lawrence  
Elizabeth A. Lee  
Mary Ellen Lee  
Marth & Leo Levy  
Jean Libby  
Karen Lipson  
Kathleen Long  
M & T Charitable Foundation  
Lorenda Mable  
Lynn MacGowan  
James Mack  
Nancy Maloney  
Barbara & Chuck Manning  
Dawn Marar  
Kai Marion  
Joanne Martin  
Matthew Masur  
Mater Christi School  
Sara Darby  
Ann T. McDonald III  
Lillie McLaughlin  
Katie Meislahn  
Sandy Miller  
Mark Mishler  
Cara Molyneaux  
Janine Moon  
Tatiana Moragne  
Shawn Morris  
Sofie Moss  
Ellen Mousin  
Lillian Moy  
Paul T. & Suzanne Murray  
Paul Nance & Glenna Spitze  
Network for Good  
Grace Ngugi  
Harris Oberlander  
Michael O’Brien  
Steven O’Connor  
Christopher Oertel  
Patricia Oldham  
Joseph Okuniewski  
Margo Olson  
Anthony Opalka  
Tanya & Leroy Owens  
Debbie-Ann Paige  
Don Papson  
Shawn Parkyn  
Ralph Pennington  
Perry Road Project  
Pfizer Foundation  
Matching Gifts Program  
Michelle Phillips  
Viriga Phoenix  
Pittstown Historical Society  
Jan Pollow  
Joan Poppei  
Mary Prokop  
C. Clairborne Ray  
Renaissance Charitable Foundation  
Michael Rhodes-Devey  
Nancy Robillard  
Sharon & Bruce Robinson  
Susan Rodems  
Patrick Ryan  
Mario Salerno, Jr.  
Michael Salz  
Alexandra Sautin & Rickey Barney  
Anne Savage  
Jacqueline Schmitt  
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Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation  
Darius Shahinfar  
Carla Silverstein  
Sandra Smith  
Claire Stahler  
Doria Lee Stanley  
Johanna Stewer  
State of New York - Department of General Services  
Paul & Mary Liz Stewart  
Sarah Stewart  
Stone Industries  

DONORS — a sampling — whose contributions make it all possible — — — —

Being hired to work at a place I love is so great! Underground Railroad History Project does such a great job making history accessible in so many ways, and it does a great job showing how it is relevant to today. (Brittany)

While the gardens are a lot of work, they do wonders to make The Myers Residence Campus look and feel like a park open to everyone. Heritage plants reflecting what Harriet Myers would have grown in a kitchen garden are a great way to connect with the past. Our neighbors enjoy the taste and texture! (Jan)

Create and Taste, what an incredible evening! I met new supporters of URHP, we made a great historic desert that we ate along with a delicious entree from a mid-19th c. recipe! (Sarah)

The collection of books that fill the Myers Residence Library is incredible. Books for children, youth, adults, teachers, and more, and all donated by folks in the community! I love applying my Library Science skills to this community resource. (Brianna)

I love volunteering here. My contributions are appreciated, I get to use my skills, and everyone is so friendly! (Linda)

Caroling on a chilly winter’s evening lifted my spirits and brought neighbors to their front doors with smiles and thank you’s and well wishes for a happy holiday. It was the best caroling experience I have ever had! (Savanna)

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Quotable Quotes

The Most Powerful House Museum I Have Ever Visited

“I stopped by this house [The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence] as I was traveling through Albany, hoping I’d be able to get a tour of it. I didn’t even get through reading the plaque outside before Mary, co-founder of the museum, invited me inside. I took a tour with Thearse. She was amazing. The way she engaged the kids that were on the tour but still made it interesting for the adults, and the way she connected the struggle Stephen and Harriet Myers were involved in with the struggles Black people continue to fight in this country today - it was powerful to say the very least.

I am so thankful a house museum like this exists. I’m thankful this house was saved from the wrecking ball, thankful Stephen and Harriet Myers are being recognized for the heroes that they were, and thankful I was able to walk in their footsteps and experience all that history in a setting like this.

Highly, highly recommend for everyone.” (Patrick)

Expanding Our Understanding of the Underground Railroad

“This site (that serves as a museum, historic site, and community-based heritage center) [The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence] provides a wonderful introduction to the activities of individuals like Stephen and Harriet Myers, who contributed to the Underground Railroad in the Albany area and beyond. The information shared helps visitors build a more comprehensive understanding of the contributions of many men and women who supported people seeking freedom from enslavement and who contributed to the abolitionist movement. Learning about programs at the site (community gardens, teen programs, tours) is inspiring as well!” (ccdann)

The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence is a place where past and present come together, where the voices of those left out of the American narrative are boldly given voice, and where racial reconciliation and inspiration to work for justice have a home. Visitors to The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence come from New York City, Orange County, Albany, Latham, Clifton Park, Altamont, Connecticut, California, Texas, New Hampshire, Washington, Arkansas, South Carolina, New Mexico, Kenya, Scotland, Britain, and elsewhere. The Myers Residence is a community anchor contributing to community revitalization, heritage tourism, pride of place.

PRESERVATION — Your support helps preserve The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence, a treasure in our midst, and more

Youth Archeology Summer Camp conducted in collaboration with Hartgen Archeological Associates provides the opportunity to engage in a real archeological dig while uncovering artifacts that help us to better understand the life and times of our local abolitionists.

Collaborating with Hartgen Archeological Associates, Advanced Placement Educator Jessica Harney of Camden Central School District, staff of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and local municipal leaders, the Florence Farming and Lumber Association, a free Black self-sufficiency economic development community located in Florence, NY and led by Stephen Myers, is now preserved for future generations.
EXPLORING AND CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT — Your support expands the outreach and impact of the work of Underground Railroad History Project -

Annual conferences, now known as LibertyCon, gather together since 2002 those interested in learning more about UGRR history and its relationship with us today. Round Table Conversations invite all voices to be heard and apply theory to practice.

The annual July 4th Oration, framed by Frederick Douglass’s 1852 speech, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?, investigates human rights issues of today that are rooted in the past, using lectures, readers’ theaters, and other formats, creating a thought provoking, interactive experience.

International Archeology Day, celebrated annually on The Myers Residence Campus in collaboration with Hartgen Archeological Associates, is a family program that opens up to the public educational experiences that can only come through real life.

Walking tours that visit locations where Underground Railroad activists lived, worked, and engaged in their activities inspires participants to take pride in their community and engage in further research.

Through Young Abolitionists local youth can learn about the Underground Railroad movement from the voices of those who were UGRR activists and bring that history to life for us today.

Members across the country

 Affiliations

• Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau
• Erie Canal Way National Heritage Area
• Hudson River Green Way
• International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
• Museum Association of New York
• National Association of African American Museums
• National Park Service National Network to Freedom
• Partners for Albany Stories
• Underground Railroad Consortium of NYS

Underground Railroad History Project believes in the power of collaboration. In addition to the affiliations listed above, URHP collaborates in a variety of ways with Siena, SUNYA, College of St. Rose, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, St. Anne Institute, Regeneron, and others, joining forces with others of like sentiments to pool strengths and extend reach and impact, and provide the moral support to ‘keep on keepin’ on’. 