Call to Action - - -

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

> Share your talents as a volunteer
> Become a member
> Become a donor
> Arrange for planned giving
  - Find out how by calling 518-621-7793

Underground Railroad Education Center
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 ®

Revised 2021
Mission
Underground Railroad Education Center researches and preserves the local and national history of the Underground Railroad movement, its international connections, and its legacy to today’s social justice issues, thereby 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 Education Center 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 Education Center 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.
## DATA OF INTEREST

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## REFLECTIONS FROM THE UREC BOARD PRESIDENT

Approaching the residence, one cannot help but notice its strong brick facade and the way the front steps beckon entrance. Like those who once lived inside its walls and who passed through its doors, it is a welcoming survivor, known as a safe haven, an escape, a place of liberation and a place of sanctuary.

Today, The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence, as the centerpiece of the work of UREC, is home to tours, teen programs, community programs, contributing to community revitalization and fostering pride in the leadership role taken by Black abolitionists in the Underground Railroad movement. The Myers Residence survives because of dedicated volunteers, members, and donors. Its role in the Underground Railroad movement has broadened to encompass the new and unfolding world in which civil rights and social justice movements continue and where ongoing dialogue, education, and scholarship enlighten and inform communities near and far. Thank you for walking with us on this inspiring journey.

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### 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 the UGRR connection with me today. (Irene)

Our tour of The Myers Residence was interactive and very informative. Dressing up in period attire was so much fun. (Rayshaun)

Working on grounds maintenance and beautification taught me about civic responsibility and how I have an important role to play in keeping my community healthy. (Quazeek)

Learning about the relationship between the Underground Railroad movement, Black Lives Matter, and redlining blew me away! I want to learn more! (Keyon)

Bringing this new history alive with other teens is fun and a great way to invite other teens to join us! (Celina)

I never knew learning about history and its relationship with me could be so amazing! (Camyl)
Youth Archeology Summer Camp provides a real archeological experience for middle and high school students while contributing period appropriate artifacts to the Underground Railroad Education Center collection. Artifacts help us understand the daily lived experiences of our abolition activists.

Regeneron employees contribute their time and talent to build a new and badly needed shed for Underground Railroad Education Center on The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence Campus. Regeneron’s generosity extended to the purchase of all the necessary materials to construct the shed.

I love volunteering here. My contributions are appreciated, I get to apply my years of library knowledge and skills, and everyone is so friendly! (Judith)

Performing in the staged production of Yours for the Oppressed, Harriet Myers at The Myers Residence was an empowering and inspiring experience. (John)

Youth Archeology Summer Camp brings the community together for Arbor Day and contributes the beauty of the green spaces around The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence. (Sayeh)

Planting lilacs donated by Pine Hollow Arboretum brought the community together for Arbor Day and contributes the beauty of the green spaces around The Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence. (Sayeh)

Singing period songs in period attire is fun and so educational! Bringing forward the voices of people written out of history is powerful! (Heather)

Performing in the staged production of Yours for the Oppressed, Harriet Myers at The Myers Residence was an empowering and inspiring experience. (John)
Testimonials - - - - -

**A Gem in Our Midst**

We visited the Myers residence in early October and greatly enjoyed our tour with Mary Liz and Paul! They have such a wealth of knowledge of the underground railroad movement and the history of the area between them, and are true treasures. Their storytelling approach kept the interest of our kids, who ranged in age from 8 to 12, throughout the tour. In short, they do a wonderful job educating visitors and sharing a side of history that is rarely taught but should be part of our national conversation. (Brooklyn, NY)

**Expanding Our Understanding of the Underground Railroad**

My classmates and I visited the Stephen Myers house this past Saturday and it was amazing, the preservation of such a historic relic is a beautiful sight to see as well as the feeling of the history surrounding you is amazing. (Rahiem K.)

**Underground Railroad Made Human**

Outstanding hidden resource in Albany. Great programs for many groups and a must stop site for history buffs. Really shows the human side of the Underground Railroad in Albany. I visited on a special tour for legislators so had more of the history of how this site came to be rather than trying their usual tour but this is an excellent site that is a true labor of love for its caretakers. Also really thoughtful ideas for integration into a busy city neighborhood thru involvement of the neighbors themselves. (Matthew M.)

**Step Into History**

This historical site, and the wonderful tour provided by Paul, provide a glimpse of the Underground Railroad quite different from the snippets of information imbedded in the minds of many of us. The house is undergoing repair and renovation but it and the many artifacts on display gave us insight into the life saving efforts of ordinary citizens almost 200 years ago. The foundation’s ongoing summer projects with local students provided us with key historical information. We definitely recommend a visit. (Toby C.)

**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 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, and empowerment to work for equity and justice.**

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

Support offered through financial contributions and donations of time and talent have brought The Myers Residence online allowing its empowering story and relevance for today to impact many people far and wide.

Preserving The Myers Residence for future generations ensures that our youth have the opportunity to learn the full story of this inspiring and empowering piece of the American narrative known as the Underground Railroad. The Myers Residence is a tangible artifact reminding us of the efforts of local citizens to work together for justice and equity for all Americans.

2004 2014 2018 2020
EXPLORING AND CONNECTING PAST WITH PRESENT — Your support expands the outreach and impact of the work of Underground Railroad Education Center.

- Annual conferences, now known as FreedomCon, 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.

- A newsletter published three times a year and mailed to donors and members connects past with present through feature articles highlighting documented research that brings forth new information for a general audience.

- 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 inspire participants to take pride in their community and engage in further research.

- Thru staged productions the voices of those written out of the American narrative can be brought to life for us today, sharing their passion, their activism, their dedication to working for justice and equity.

AFFILIATIONS

- Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Area
- Hudson River Valley Greenway
- International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
- Museum Association of New York
- National Association of African American Museums
- National Park Service National Network to Freedom
- National Park Service African American Civil Rights Network
- Underground Railroad Consortium of NYS

Underground Railroad Education Center believes in the power of collaboration. In addition to the affiliations listed above, UREC collaborates in a variety of ways with Siena, SUNYA, College of St. Rose, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, St. Anne Institute, Regeneron, African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region 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’.