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2003

### Harriet Tubman Day Celebration; March 10, 2003

Harriet Tubman Day Planning Committee, Community Action Coalition

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# Harriet Tubman Day Celebration



**Langston Hughes Institute  
25 High Street**

Journal Produced By: Black Member Services Layout Design By: Carlanda Meadors-Muhammad

The Harriet Tubman Day Planning Committee Wishes to Thank  
the Following Donors and/or Individuals Who Helped to Make this  
Event Possible:

**Councilmember Betty Jean Grant**

**Tops Supermarket - Niagara & Maryland**

**Tops Supermarket - University Plaza**

**We Care Transportation - 401 E. Amherst St.**

**Community Action Coalition**

**The Langston Hughes Institute**

**"Let's Talk About It" - WUFO Radio**

**"Masten on the Move" - WUFO Radio**

**The Challenger**

**Councilmember Antoine Thompson**

**Councilmember Brian C. Davis**

**Erie County Legislator Demone Smith**

**Ms. Stacey Grant**

**Ms. Vicki Grant**

**Mr. Clifford Bell**

**Harriet Tubman 300's**

**Mr. Michael Hill, Langston Hughes Institute**

**Langston Hughes Jama-Jama Group**

**Mr. L. Nathan Hare**

**Mr. Ken Olden (Great, Great, Grand Nephew of Harriet Tubman)**

**Mr. Donald Robinson (Great, Grand Nephew of Harriet Tubman)**

**Ms. Esther Smothers**

**African American Cultural Center Dancers**

**Mrs. Sharon Holley**

**Mr. Jimmie Stewart**

**Ms. Marion Mayfield, Principal - BPS School #12**

**Ms. Karima Amin**

**Ms. Carol Salter, WUFO Radio**

**Mrs. Eva Doyle**

**Potential Multi-Cultural Center Dancers and Drummers**

**Ms. Wanda Strong-Howard**

**Ms. Pat Bozeman**

**Mrs. Crystal Boling-Barton, President - Harriet Tubman 300's**

**Mr. Kevin Cottrell, Motherland Connexions**

**Bishop William Henderson**

**ABC Hardware - 3336 Bailey Ave.**

# Swing Low, Sweet Harriet

By: Betty Jean Grant

## CHORUS: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (Negro Spiritual)

Huddled in a heap, bloody and beaten  
By too many lashes from the master's whip  
The unbroken woman began to plan  
What the field slaves called "De Northern Trip"  
The tiny black woman packed what she owned  
In a cloth knapsack, and totin' a gun  
Headed for the forest but told not a soul  
Who could run and tell massa what she had done  
Guided by instinct and the Northern Star  
She traveled unknown Indian trails  
Too tired to rest and too weary to sleep  
She was ever mindful of the slavecatchers' wails  
Days and nights on a northerly flight  
Touching freedom's soil in a distant land  
But freedom for one is freedom for none  
And the cries of her people led her South again

## CHORUS:

*"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot-Coming for to carry me home  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot-Coming for to carry me home"*

With Negro spirituals and talking drums  
She talked to the slaves as she hid out of sight  
And planned a visit to her old plantation  
To free her family in the dead of night

## CHORUS:

*"I looked over Jordan and what did I see?-Coming for to carry me home  
A band of angels coming after me-Coming for to carry me home"*

Harriet was free but her heart was heavy  
For her ears still heard the Southern cries  
She had no choice but to go back  
To the land of lynchings and Southern skies

## CHORUS:

*"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot-Coming for to carry me home  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot-Coming for to carry me home  
If you get there before I do-Coming for to carry me home  
Tell all my friends, I'm coming too-Coming for to carry me home"*

Thirty times she crossed the river  
Driven, in part, by the nation's wrongs  
And thirty times she ducked men and dogs  
And led to freedom, three-hundred strong  
Swing, swing low, my sweet Harriet  
Swing low, angel of liberty  
Lead me: lead me, my sweet Moses  
North, to the land where we be free

## CHORUS;

*"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot-Coming for to carry me home  
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot-Coming for to carry me home"*

# Harriet Tubman

## The Moses Of Her People

Harriet Tubman, whose birth name was Araminta Ross, was born on a plantation in Bucktown, Maryland, a small town near Cambridge. She was one of eleven children of Benjamin and Harriet (Greene) Ross. Her grandparents on both side had come to America in chains from their native Africa. By the time she was seven, Harriet was hired out to do housework and tend to children on nearby plantations. While still a teenager, Harriet was struck on the head by an overseer. As a result of the blow, she would fall asleep suddenly several times a day for the rest of her life.

In 1844, Harriet married a free black man named John Tubman. But she left him in 1849 when her fear of being sold farther South spurred her to escape. She traveled at night, aided by the Underground Railroad, a secret network of people who helped fugitive slaves reach the Northern States and finally to freedom in Canada.

Buffalo and the surrounding area, is reported to be home to several locations, including the famous Michigan Street Baptist Church, that was utilized by exhausted slaves and their courageous benefactors to house the enslaved people until it was safe to transport them across the river.

Once Harriet Tubman reached freedom in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she worked as a maid in hotels and clubs to save money so that she could return South to free her family and other slaves. By December-1850, she had saved enough money to make the first of over 19 daring trips back into the South to lead over 300 slaves to freedom.

Ms. Tubman worked closely with the Underground Railroad. Often she had to resort to strict discipline during the perilous journeys to the North. If a runaway lagged behind or lost faith and wished to turn back, Harriet often had to use her gun to "encourage" the slave to continue the journey. No runaway was permitted to return once he had left the plantation due to fears that he might betray the other by telling "Massa" the direction the runaways were traveling.

Harriet bought a farm for her family in Auburn, New York in the late 1850's. She also worked with the abolitionist, John Brown and helped him plan the raid on Harpers Ferry, West Virginia in October 1859. During the Civil War, Harriet served the Union army as a scout, nurse and spy. She married Nelson Davis, a Civil War Veteran, in 1869. She sponsored a home for needy Blacks in Auburn in 1908. For all her work in helping to free her people, she is forever known as the "Moses" of her people.

Harriet Tubman was 93 years old when she died in Auburn, New York on March 10, 1913. She was buried with full military honors. In 1914, the city of Auburn, New York unveiled a tablet in her memory. Her friend and fellow abolitionist, Booker T. Washington presided over the memorial service.

# Harriet Tubman Day Planning Committee:



*Rudolphus Boans  
Pat Bozeman  
Brian C. Davis  
Betty Jean Grant  
Stacey Grant  
Dorothy Hill  
Wanda Strong-Howard  
Ken Olden  
Billy Robinson  
Donald Robinson  
Demone Smith  
Esther Smothers  
Jimmie Stewart  
Antoine M. Thompson  
Marlowe Wright*

## Harriet Tubman Day Celebration

**Monday, March 10, 2003**

**Langston Hughes Center  
25 High St.- Bflo-N.Y 14203**

*Choirs • Poetry  
Singers • Dramatic Monologues  
Drummers • Essay Contest Winners  
African Dancers • Proclamations  
Story Tellers • Praise Dancing*

### Special Guests:

**The Olden & Robinson Families**  
*(Great Grand Niece & Great Grand Nephew of Harriet Tubman)*  
**Harriet Tubman 300's**



*"I neber lost a passenger and I nebber  
run de train off de track"*

*Harriet Tubman*

*Sponsored By: Harriet Tubman Day Planning Committee, Community Action Coalition,  
Councilmembers: Betty Jean Grant, Antoine M. Thompson, Brian C. Davis & Erie County Legislator Demone Smith*

# Programme

Master Of Ceremony	Mr. Clifford Bell
Processional Walk	Harriet Tubman 300's Inc.
Opening Prayer	Bishop William Henderson
Black National Anthem	Ms. Wanda Strong-Howard
Welcome	Mr. Michael Hill, Langston Hughes Institute
Drum Call	Langston Hughes Jama-Jama Group
Libation Ceremony	Mr. L. Nathan Hare
Historical Narrative of Harriet Tubman	Mr. Ken Olden (Great, Great Grand Nephew of H.T)
Recognition of Family Members	Mr. Donald Robinson (Great, Great Grand Nephew of H.T)
Dramatic Monologue	Ms. Esther Smothers
Drum/Dance Rendition	African American Cultural Center Dancers
Story	Mrs. Sharon Holley
Song	Mr. Jimmie Stewart
<b>INTERMISSION (10 MINUTES)</b>	
Renaming School 12-(In Honor of H.T)	Ms. Marion Mayfield, Principal, BPS-School #12
Story	Ms. Karima Amin
Poem	Ms. Carol Salter, WUFO Radio
Dramatic Monologue	Mrs. Eva Doyle
Proclamations and Citations	City, County and State Officials
Drum Dance	Potential Multi-Cultural Center
Dramatic Monologue	Ms. Wanda Strong-Howard
Poem	Ms. Pat Bozeman
History of Harriet Tubman 300's Inc.	Mrs. Crystal Boling-Barton, Pres. Harriet Tubman 300's Inc.
Update-Lwr. Michigan Heritage Corridor	Mr. Kevin Cottrell, Motherland Connexions
Update- Michigan Baptist Church	Bishop William Henderson
Poem/Song: "Swing Low, Sweet Harriet"	Betty Jean Grant and the Community Action Coalition (in plantation clothes)
Closing Prayer	Bishop William Henderson



# City of Buffalo Common Council

*At the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo, held on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, sponsored by Councilmembers Grant, Pitts, Fisher, Gray, Davis, Franczyk and Thompson:*

*Whereas: Harriet Tubman, born in 1820 on a slave plantation near Cambridge Maryland, is a great American Heroine, whose daring and courage during thirty trips to the deep South helped lead over 300 slaves to freedom: and*

*Whereas: Ms. Tubman's route to freedom led many of these slaves through Buffalo and the surrounding Niagara region in their journey as they were assisted by compassionate individuals on both sides of the International Border between the United States and Canada: and*

*Whereas: Many of the sites Harriet Tubman visited or the trails the slaves utilized became known as the Underground Railroad and are now being designated and developed as historic sites on the State's Heritage Tours Campaign; and*

*Whereas: Harriet Tubman's deeds as a scout and later as nurse for the Union Army during the civil war are legendary; and*

*Whereas: Harriet Tubman, called the "Moses" of her people, boasted that she "never lost a passenger or ran the train off the track", died at the age of 93 on March 10, 1913 in Auburn, New York; and*

*Whereas: In 2003, the Michigan Street Bridge in Niagara Falls will be renamed the "Harriet Tubman Bridge"; and*

*Whereas: In Spring 2003, the Buffalo Board of Education will rename and dedicate Public School No. 12, "The Harriet Tubman School"*

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:*

*That the Buffalo Common Council does hereby declare March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003, and every succeeding year thereafter, be designated "**Harriett Tubman Day**" in the City of Buffalo.*

Betty Jean Grant

James W. Pitts, Council President

Beverly A. Gray

Charley H. Fisher, III

Brian C. Davis

David A. Franczyk

Antoine M. Thompson

Charles L. Michaux, III, City Clerk





# City of Buffalo

## Common Council

*At the regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Buffalo, held on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, sponsored by Councilmember Betty Jean Grant:*

- Whereas: In 1975, Lula G. Williams was appointed Librarian of the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, New York, by the A.M.E. Zion Church of Western, New York. Ms. Williams realized the inadequate housing of the books and memorabilia relative to Harriet Tubman at the Auburn home. Ms. Williams envisioned the need for a library building; She recruited Mrs. Collier, who approached other women in the Buffalo community with similar interests and enthusiasm, with the idea to establish a library dedicated to the memory of Harriet Tubman; and*
- Whereas: On February 16, 1975, at the home of the late Earline Collier, the Harriet Tubman Committee was formed for the purpose of perpetuating the name Harriet Tubman and to foster her ideals through leadership and community awareness; to make financial contributions for the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Library in Auburn, New York and other worthy causes in Buffalo, New York. In 1979, the Harriet Tubman Committee became the known as the Harriet Tubman 300's; and*
- Whereas: On May 26, 1979, the Harriet Tubman Memorial Library was dedicated in Auburn, New York, successfully transferring a dream into reality for the Harriet Tubman 300's. Since the Library's inception in 1979, the Harriet Tubman 300's have made several gifts to the Library exceeding \$12,000; and*
- Whereas: The members of the Harriet Tubman 300's are 30 strong, and like Harriet Tubman, visualize victory in all their endeavors, the organization has extended its interests to include many deserving organizations in Buffalo, New York, including: NAACP ACT-SO, United Negro College Fund, NAACP, Black Achievers, St. Augustine Center, Buffalo Arts & Music, Ltd., EOC Scholarship Fund, Buffalo Urban League, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta's Teen Age Pregnancy Program, 1490 Enterprises, Inc., YWCA Shelter for Homeless Women, Lions Club and the African Hunger Relief Program; The establishment of markers along the Underground Railroad sites in Western New York, is an ongoing effort of the Group, to keep the memory of Harriet Tubman's tenacious and courageous journey alive, as she led 300 slaves from the South to freedom through the Underground Railroad network, for future generations; and*
- Whereas: Under the leadership of its current President, Crystal Boling Barton, the Harriet Tubman's 300's Inc. continue their efforts to serve as an effective vehicle for community excellence;*

***Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:***

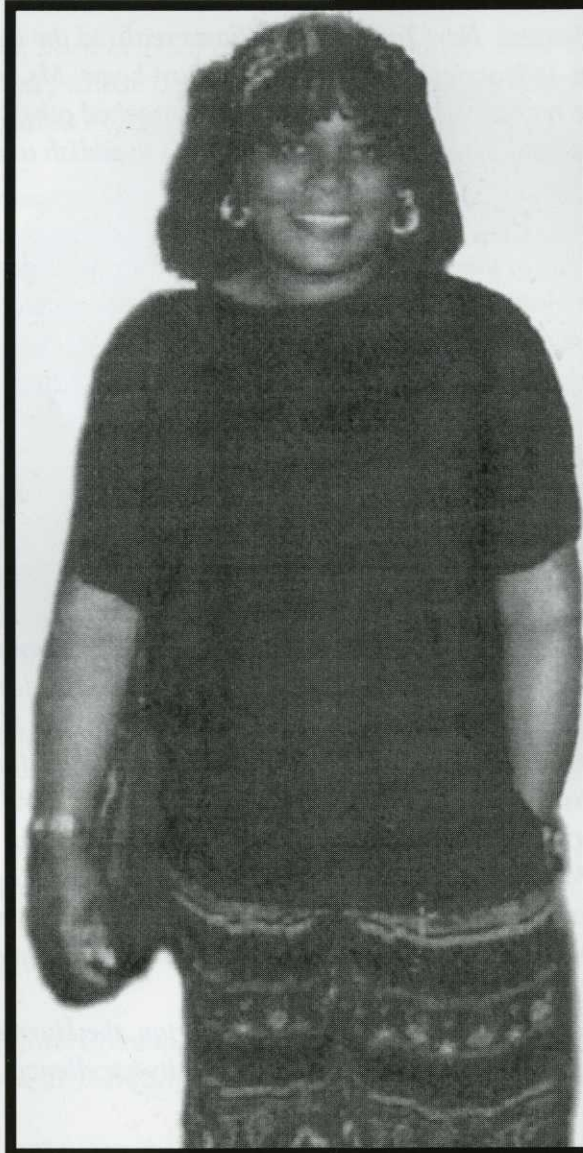
*That the Buffalo Common Council extends its heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Harriet Tubman 300's for their continued community spirit, support and financial contributions for the past twenty-seven years to the residents of the City of Buffalo, New York.*

Betty Jean Grant, Councilmember

James W. Pitts, Council President

Charles L. Michaux, III, City Clerk

*I honor the legacy of Harriet Tubman because she was my ancestor. She is me today and she will be in my great grandchildren in the future.*



*Betty Jean Grant  
University District Councilmember*

**“ I Stand On The Shoulders Of Those That Came Before Me....  
And The Struggle Continues.....2003”  
“God Be The Glory”**



**2001 Mayoral Candidate  
For The City Of Buffalo  
Beverly A. Gray**

# Harriet Tubman

**A Woman of Strength and Courage**



When I found I had  
crossed dat line,  
I looked at my  
hands to see  
if I was de  
same pusson.  
There was such  
a glory ober  
ebery ting;  
de sun came like  
gold through  
de trees, and ober  
de fields,  
and I felt like  
I was in Heaben.

-Harriet Tubman



**Brian C. Davis**

**Ellicott District Councilmember**

1408 City Hall-Bflo, N.Y 14202

Ph:851-4980-Fax: 851-6576

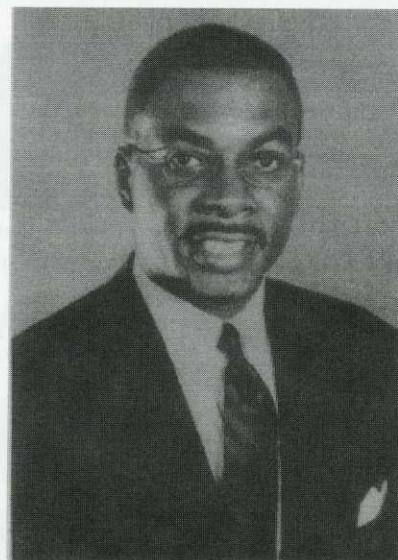
[brdavis@city-buffalo.com](mailto:brdavis@city-buffalo.com)

Erie County Legislator  
Demone Smith  
7th District *Salutes:*  
**Harriet Tubman**  
&  
**All Black History Makers  
Past & Present**



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Ph: (716) 894-0914 Fax: (716) 896-1463



**WORKING WITH YOU TO  
BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY**

**NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
BYRON W. BROWN**



**Charley H. Fisher, III**

*Salutes Harriet Tubman*

A risk taker, a way maker.

As we climb the ladder of success, let us pay homage to those that came before us. Harriet Tubman escaped the degradation and abuse of slavery only to put her life in danger, returning to assist over 300 of her brothers and sisters in bondage. In the spirit of brotherhood, in the spirit of Harriet Tubman, let us remember that one person can make a difference in the community. What we do today will strengthen the ladder of success for those that will come after us.

*James W. Pitts,  
President of the  
Buffalo Common Council  
and  
Candidate for  
Buffalo City Comptroller  
honors the Legacy of  
Harriet Tubman  
and her role in the liberation of  
her people as a "conductor" on  
The Underground Railroad.*

**James W. Pitts**

for

**Buffalo City Comptroller  
Primary Day-2003**



# BLACK MEMBER SERVICES



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C.E.O./Graphic Designer

Jeanneie Muhammad  
C.E.O./Administrative Executive

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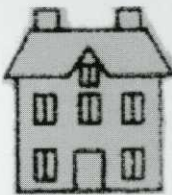
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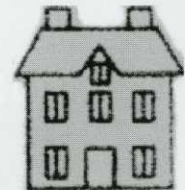
**CALL US TODAY @ 893-0176 OR 896-7611  
CARLANDA & JEANNEIE MUHAMMAD**

## Congratulations to the Harriet Tubman Day Committee from your friends at the BMHA

We're proud to support the HARRIET TUBMAN DAY CELEBRATION and recognize the tremendous accomplishments of this true heroine of history. You've shown, once again, your spirit and dedication, and we're proud to be a partner with you in the Buffalo Community.



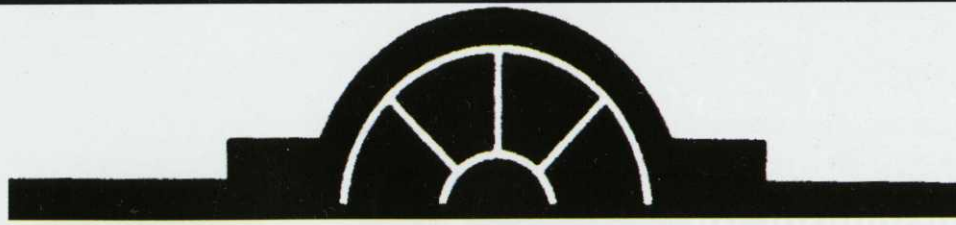
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Chairman**



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 Large Pizza - \$8.32  
 Cheese & One Topping

Monday  
 .25 Wings  
 Min. order of 20 wings

Friday  
 Fish Dinners - \$6.25  
 includes fries and cole slaw

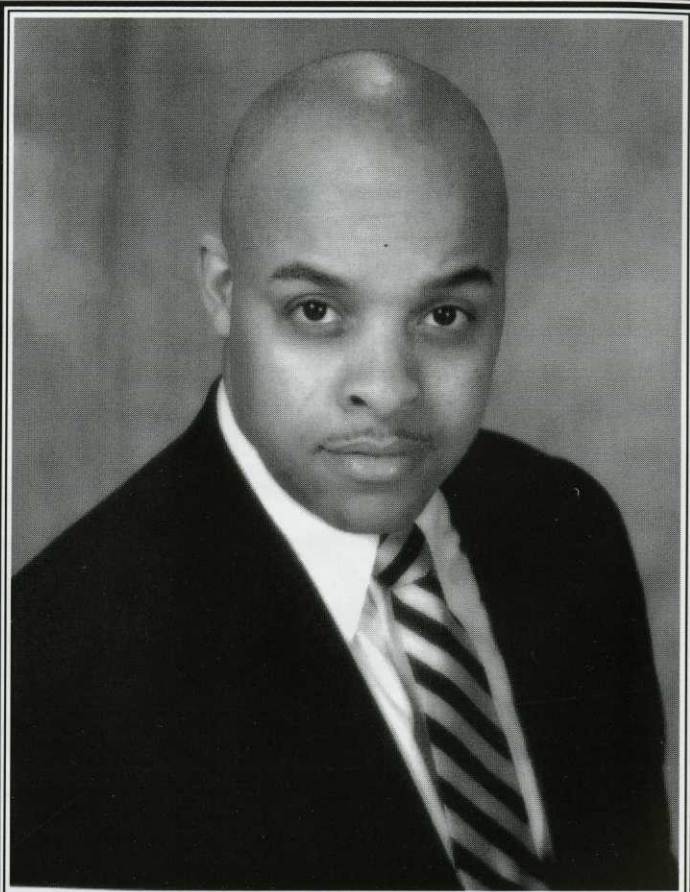
**NO PORK SERVED**

**The Community Action Coalition  
is proud to  
co-sponsor the  
Harriet Tubman Day  
Celebration  
in Buffalo, New York.**



*In order to teach history,  
We must first know it.*

**The Community Action Coalition  
Edward Saunders Unity Building  
2777 Bailey Avenue  
Bflo, NY 14215  
(716) 832-2577**



**Antoine M. Thompson  
Masten District Councilmember  
*Salutes The Courage & Wisdom of***

**Harriet Tubman**

**“Celebrate Our History!”**

**P.O. Box  
Bflo, NY 14209**



# 100 MIGHTY MEN

## THE ONLY REASON MEN FAIL IS BROKEN FOCUS

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The 100 MIGHTY MEN has been established to stimulate and empower the young and old of Buffalo, and surrounding areas through the development of Economic Development opportunities.

### GOAL:

To empower men with economic opportunities that will:

- Change their lives • Strengthen their families
  - Create safer school environments
  - Stabilize the communities they live in



### METHODS:

The 100 MIGHTY MEN propose to achieve their goals by:

- Providing Job Readiness Training
  - Creating Economic Development Opportunities
- Providing Business & Individual Mentorship
- Providing Money Management Workshops
- Providing Homeownership to Workshops
- Providing Workshops on The Role of Men in The Family
- Developing Community Service Projects



### VISION STATEMENT:

The 100 MIGHTY MEN envisions a community where every man is empowered to take care of and provide for his family with pride and dignity.

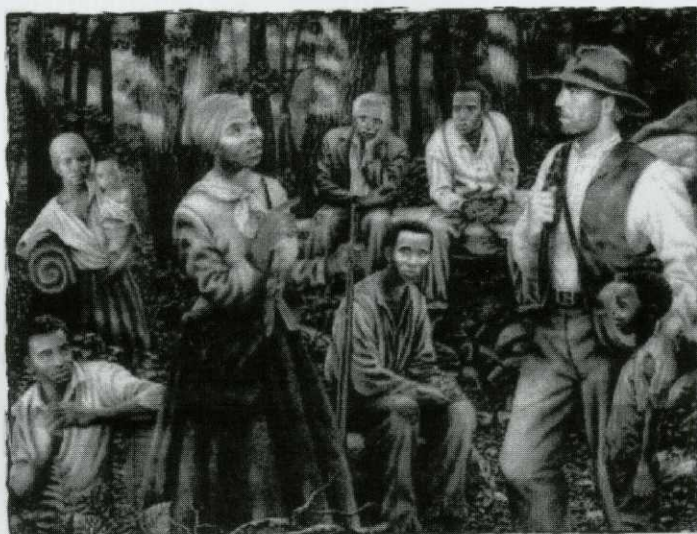
**Edward B. Wiley-President- 897-0564**  
**Rudolphus Boars Jr.-Vice President- 578-6619**

**The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Salutes**

**the *Harriet Tubman Day Celebration***

**and invites you to our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Reflection  
on April 5, 2003, 11am at 526 Hight St, Bflo, NY 14211**

There will be a play and a luncheon.  
Free willing offerings will be accepted.



For more information call:  
Ms. Gwen Neal-President  
SCLC at 834-5911

SCLC meets 4-12-2003 and every other Saturday at:  
Gethsemane Baptist Church  
55 Grape St.  
Bflo, NY 14204  
Rev. Herbert V. Reed-Pastor



**Love Under The Ark**  
**Daycare/Preparatory Educational Center**  
**1198-1200 Jefferson Ave.**  
**Bflo, NY 14208**  
**Ph: (716) 446-0576**  
**Cell: (716) 563-1002**

*A committed relationship with every parent and every teacher of every child*

We are an organization committed to the educational enhancement of all children. We believe the financial status you are born into should not dictate your preparation and accomplishments for all levels of education.

We believe prevention is better than intervention therefore we are determined to adequately prepare our children for each level of early childhood education and follow through with educational support throughout their educational careers. This will be achieved through a concerned, eager and dedicated teaching staff of love under the ark; and a committed relationship with every parent and every teacher of every child enrolled in the center.

For to long have we allowed and permitted our daycare centers to just baby-sit our children. It is time for parents to require and accept nothing less than the best for our children. It is time for you to require a daycare providing a safe and loving environment with education preparation.

Love Under the Ark will be a suburban quality daycare center in the heart of the community 1200 Jefferson Ave. We aim to go beyond the minimal ethics of daycare, providing programs such as: Spanish, Music, Age based Educational Curriculum, African & African American History, Karate, Story Telling, Edict classes and much more. Hours of operation will be 6am-2am (as needed).

For more information please contact me and see how you can assist and be apart of a New and Improved Quality of childcare service. Love Under the Ark will promote the success of our community with jobs, economic development and dedication to education and cultural history.

Esther D. Smothers

**Rock Academy**  
**1198 Jefferson Ave.-Bflo, NY 14208**  
**(716) 883-3989**

Mission Statement:

The Rock Academy is a private Messianic Hebrew school providing quality education from early childhood through grade twelve. Personal educational programming allows our school to respond to different levels of each child's natural ability. Student, faculty and parents work together to create a learning environment in which each child will achieve academic excellence while developing a strong sense of self worth and social responsibility in the Buffalo metropolitan area. The Rock Academy is dedicated in preparing our students to face the challenges of life where society has forgotten the creator.

On Behalf of Superintendent Stephanie Smothers, Principal  
Dr. Donald Johnson, Love Under the Ark  
(Director Esther Smothers),  
Staff and Students of Rock Academy and  
Love Under the Ark we would like to say:

Happy Harriet Tubman Day

She is apart of our history and legacy  
that should never be forgotten!!

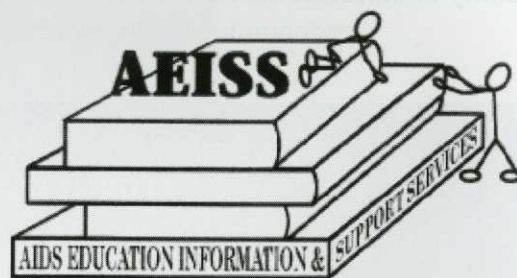
AIDS Education Information and Support Services

is proud to

*Celebrate the Legacy of*  
**Harriet Tubman**



*“The Woman Called Moses”*



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**YEP!**

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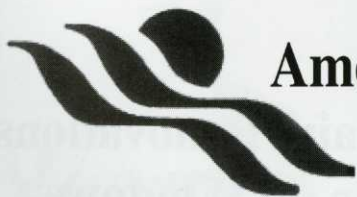
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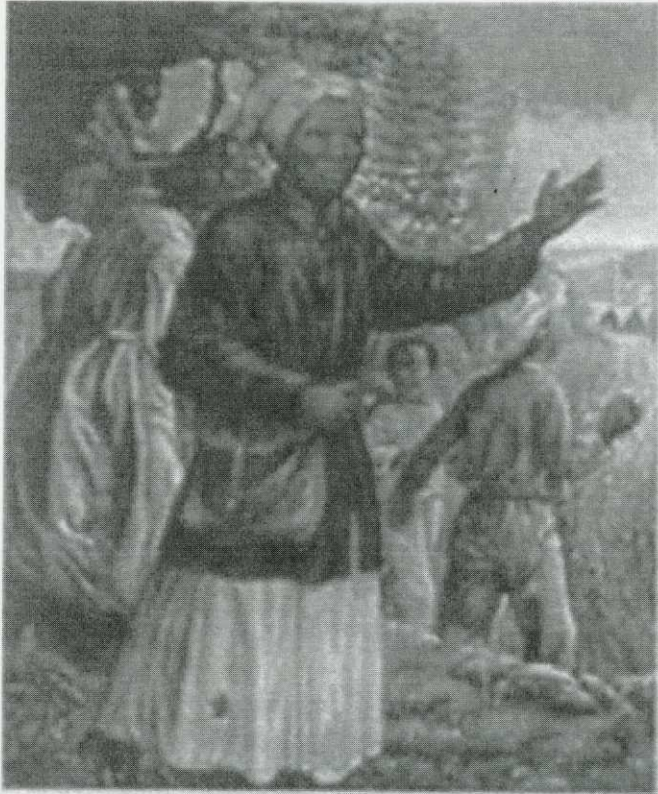
*Harriet Tubman*

an astonishing American abolitionist and  
Underground Railroad Leader.



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***Celebrate***

*the legacy of*

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## Congratulations

to the  
Olden and Robinson Families  
of Buffalo  
as We move toward national  
recognition for a  
Harriet Tubman Holiday



*Stacey Grant*  
Buffalo W.O.M.E.N.

Langston Hughes Jama Jama  
Authentic Traditional African  
Drum & Dance Ensemble

*Congratulates,*  
The Harriet Tubman Day  
Planning Committee  
in producing this  
glorious day of re-affirming  
the greatness of those  
that have come before us.



*Dorothy Hill  
Michael Hill  
Marlowe Wright*

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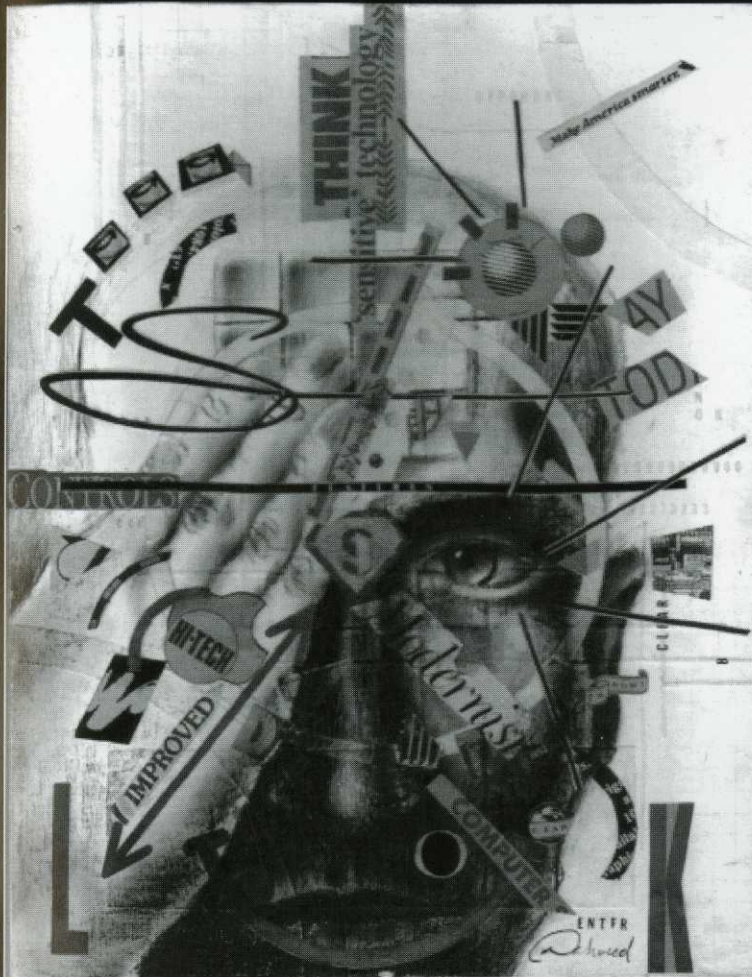


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