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Detroit hosts National Underground Railroad conference July 16-20

This year's theme is 'I Resolved Never to Be Conquered': Women and the Underground Railroad



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Harriet Jacobs was an African-American writer, a former slave and abolitionist speaker and reformer.

By Press Release
Posted Jun. 12, 2014 @ 10:58 pm

DETROIT, Mich.

The annual National Underground Railroad Conference, this year in Detroit July 16-20, will bring together scholars, archivists, community researchers and enthusiasts from across the country.

The conference, which will take place at the Doubletree-Downtown, is sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program (NTF), in collaboration with Michigan Freedom Trail, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the Organization of American Historians.

This year's theme, "I Resolved Never to Be Conquered": Women and the Underground

Railroad, is based on a sentiment penned by freedom seeker Harriet Jacobs, showing her determination to, "though one of God's most powerless creatures," retain control over herself and her body despite her enslaved status.

The conference's focus on women highlights the NTF program's new link with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Monument. It also will explore the fact that, while Tubman has been the dominant image of women and the Underground Railroad, her involvement is part of a larger story of women's participation in the movement, both as freedom seekers and operatives.

The five-day conference in downtown Detroit will include pre-conference events, renowned keynote speakers, panel discussions, an exhibit hall, and tours of local museums and historic sites. There also will be an affiliated tour to Canada on July 20.

This year, Detroit resident Grace Lee Boggs, will be honored with the Frederick Douglass Legacy Award in recognition of her lifelong commitment to social justice issues as an activist, writer and speaker. Dr. Jean Fegan-Yellin, professor emerita of English at Pace University, will be the recipient of the Wilbur H. Siebert award for her important and award-winning research of the life of Harriet Jacobs.

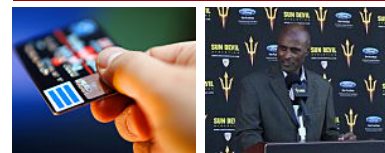
The NTF, established by legislation passed in 1998, promotes the preservation and interpretation of



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resources associated with the Underground Railroad.

To register for the conference, visit www.asalh.org/ugrr.html. Those who register by June 20 will receive a reduced rate.

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