



Mitchell Center Presents Harriet Tubman Portrayal

Actor Millicent Sparks Breathes Life into the Famous Conductor on the Underground Railroad

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dover, DE: The Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, at the Delaware Historical Society, is proud to celebrate Harriet Tubman Day with Actor Millicent Sparks' live portrayal of the woman known as "Moses" at the Old State House Museum, 25 The Green, on March 10 at 6 p.m.

After her solo flight from slavery in 1849, Ms. Tubman returned to the South many times, ushering enslaved Africans along what would become the Underground Railroad to freedom. "Harriet Tubman's story is a monument to courage and determination that continues to stand out in American history today," said Dr. Stephanie Lampkin, director of the Mitchell Center. "We are grateful to be able to present this 'living history' in part through a grant from the Delaware Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities."

Born a slave in Maryland, Tubman was beaten and whipped by her various masters as a child. Early in life, she suffered a traumatic head wound when an irate slave owner threw a heavy metal weight intending to hit another slave but hitting her instead. The injury caused dizziness, and pain throughout her life. After her injury, Tubman began experiencing strange visions and vivid dreams, which she ascribed to premonitions from God. These experiences, combined with her Methodist, led her to become devoutly religious.

After her escape to Philadelphia in 1849, she immediately returned to Maryland to rescue her family. Slowly, one group at a time, traveling by night and in extreme secrecy, she brought relatives with her out of the state, and eventually guided dozens of other slaves to freedom. When the Civil War began, Tubman worked for the Union Army, first as a cook and nurse, and then as an armed scout and spy. The first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, she guided a raid which liberated more than 700 slaves. After the war, she retired to the family home on property she had purchased in 1859 in Auburn, New York, where she cared for her aging parents. She was active in the women's suffrage movement until illness overtook her, and she had to be admitted to a home for elderly African Americans that she had helped to establish years earlier. After her death in 1913, she became an icon of courage and freedom.

The program is FREE and open to the public. Limited street parking is available in front of and around the State House. The first floor of the State House is wheelchair accessible.

Registration is required at

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E104173&id=94>

About the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage

The MCAAH offers an expansive exploration of the African American experience from 1639 to the present through artifacts, oral history interviews, music and art. These diverse perspectives of African American's struggle for freedom and dignity strengthens our state-wide community, as we preserve, share, and promote the history, heritage and culture of Delaware.

About the Delaware Historical Society

The Delaware Historical Society owns and operates the Delaware History Museum; the Jane and Littleton Mitchell Center for African American Heritage; a nationally recognized Research Library; Old Town Hall; Willingtown Square, four 18th-century houses surrounding a picturesque urban courtyard located in downtown Wilmington; and the National Historic Landmark Read House & Gardens located in New Castle. For more information, call (302) 655-7161, email deinfo@dehistory.org, or visit www.dehistory.org.

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