

A PUBLICATION OF
INDIANA FREEDOM TRAILS, INC.

A diverse group working to locate, to identify, to verify, to protect, to preserve and to promote those Indiana sites and routes as part of the National Underground Railroad Network. We dedicate ourselves and our resources to the research, education, interpretation and reverence of our Underground Railroad heritage for the benefit of generations to come.

Mission statement

Tracks

January 2008



Established in 1998, Indiana Freedom Trails invites you to share your stories with us, and participate in our efforts to continue along the paths that our mission statement professes. The network of the Underground Railroad through Indiana brought together people of several colors, religions, Northern and Southern, enslaved and free in ordinary and extraordinary ways – united in a common cause. Join us in a journey that will carry you along the tracks of a railroad with no rails, stopping at depots that you would never suspect, and meeting some fascinating folks along the way.



ACTIVITIES. Our publication is being designed to coincide with our quarterly meetings, currently being held in Indianapolis. Your information on events and programs is always welcome –the deadline for inclusion is a month prior to the meeting date. We hope that you will excuse any derailments or missed stops in this edition. The April issue will care some interesting links and looks at activities taking place.

Indiana Freedom Trails Inc. Quarterly Meeting Saturday, January 12, 2008 11am-1pm

Indiana Historical Society

450 W. Ohio Street

(free parking off New York Street)

Presenter:

Marlene Lu - IFT West Central Region

“Walking the Wabash - The UGRR of Western Indiana”

Program is free & open to the public

Check out our revised website: www.indianafreedomtrails.org

To add items to the website contact Dona Stokes-Lucas at donnastokes-lucas@juno.com, including announcements or events for the calendar; articles, research tips, scholarly opinions (with reprint permission if required) – a pdf format preferred.

To add items to the quarterly newsletter forward to Marlene Lu at mlu3@isugw.indstate.edu

Indiana Freedom Trails



Board of Directors:

Maxine Brown - Director Leora Brown School, Corydon IN
Jae Breitweiser - Director Eleutherian College, Lancaster IN
Gwen Crenshaw - IUPUI Professor, Historian
Peg Dilbone - Fremont Historical Society, Independent Researcher
Carol Hall - President Marion County Historical Society
Thomas Hendrickson - Independent Researcher & Attorney
Sandra Jackson - Levi Coffin Home
Marlene Lu - Friends of Historic Allen Chapel, Terre Haute IN
Dona Stokes-Lucas - Independent Researcher
Janice McGuire - Levi Coffin Home
William O. Smith - Decatur IN Underground Railroad, Researcher & Attorney



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



April 5, 2008--Indiana Freedom Trails will meet from 11 am to 1 pm at the Indiana Historical Society (450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis IN; parking is off of New York St.).

July 12, 2008--Indiana Freedom Trails will meet from 11 am to 1 pm at the Indiana Historical Society (450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis IN; parking is off of New York St.).

September 15-20, 2008--The Friends of the Network to Freedom Association (which supports the [National Park Service](#)) will hold their second Annual Conference in historic downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Call for papers posted at www.indianafreedomtrails.org

October 18, 2008--Indiana Freedom Trails will meet from 11 am to 1 pm at the Indiana Historical Society (450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis IN; parking is off of New York St.).



Indianapolis has been selected as the host location of the Friends Network to Freedom Association Conference in September, 2009. In celebrating the 10th year of the Network to Freedom program, we would like for all IFT members and their friends to work on applications for submission to get sites, programs or facilities listed in the NTF database. If you haven't prepared an application for the January 15, 2008, review, the next review and vote date for applications will be June 15th. Due to the time and documentation required applications need to be started on NOW!

As Jae Breitweiser mentioned in the October edition of Tracks, Indiana ranks 6th as to the most sites turned in. Ohio is currently first, followed by New York, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania respectively. We have many sites that are known we just need to get to work to get them listed.

Indiana Freedom Trails members can be available to assist and answer questions that may arise. Let's make sure that Indiana increases their number of sites by the time the conference comes to call! For information visit www.nps.gov/ugrr/



IFT has lost a great friend with the passing of Indiana Congresswoman Julia Carson, who died on December 15, 2007, after a battle with lung cancer. The first African-American and first woman to represent the state of Indiana in Congress, Rep. Carson served 11 years. Carson was a champion of children's issues, women's rights, affordable housing and efforts to reduce homelessness. She staunchly opposed the war in Iraq and pushed for legislation granting the Congressional Medal of Honor to Rosa Parks. Julia Carson was the first in Indiana to sign on as a sponsor of HR 1239 and a true supporter of UGRR history and heritage. She will be missed. A memorial will be sent to her offices in Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. by the Friends of the Network to Freedom Association, Inc. Further information will be posted on our website.



Update on HR1239/S1709



National Underground Railroad Network To Freedom Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007

Greetings All!

I just wanted to send a quick note to inform everyone about the progress we've made towards securing a more stable future for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007 was introduced in both the House and Senate.

H.R. 1239, introduced by Representatives Alcee Hastings (D/FL) and Michael Castle (D/DE) passed the House in July 2007. And we've been assured by Senator [Joseph] Biden's staff that S. 1709 is likely to pass early in 2008 (we'll continue to track that legislation closely). My thanks to everyone who made a phone call, sent an e-mail or letter, or made a personal visit to an elected representative to lobby on behalf of the NTF program and our bills. Your hard work has provided us with some mighty returns.

There is, however, quite a bit of work left to accomplish.

Both bills call for the funding authorization for the Network to Freedom program to be raised from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million. Although this is a critical first step to creating a stable financial future for the NTF, please note that once the legislation is passed and the funding ceiling raised, the NTF will still need our assistance each year to ensure that it receives the full amount of that \$2.5 million appropriation – so don't put away your activist gear yet.

Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about our NTF legislative strategy.

Alan Spears
NPCA
202-454-3384

"...Agitation of thought is the beginning of wisdom..."

Correspondence from William Hayward to W.L. [William Lloyd] Garrison, describing a visit by Sojourner Truth to Silver Lake Kosciusko County, Indiana, October 1, 1885



2007 was very productive and rewarding. IFT Members and Regional Coordinators provided countless volunteer hours dedicated to the preservation, education and commemoration of Indiana's UGRR history.

Hoosiers supported the first Inaugural Conference of the National Network to Freedom Friends Association at Georgetown, KY, in such large numbers that Indianapolis has been chosen as the site for 2009's conference.

We have a lot to be thankful for as we enter into a new year and we can't thank you enough. However, with growth there are added costs: maintaining the website, marketing, outreach, research, and educational programs. We hope you will consider your donation of \$25.00 annual membership as an investment into the history of Indiana's Underground Railroad Heritage by completing the membership applications and sending it in today! Don't miss out on a great opportunity to support Indiana Freedom Trails, Inc.

We'll be great in 2008!
The Board
Indiana Freedom Trails Inc.



Take part in a cohesive, diverse group working to locate, identify, preserve, and promote Indiana's Underground Railroad history!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Membership is \$25.00 per year. Please make your check payable to Indiana Freedom Trails and send to:

Indiana Freedom Trails
PO Box 2917
Indianapolis IN 46206