

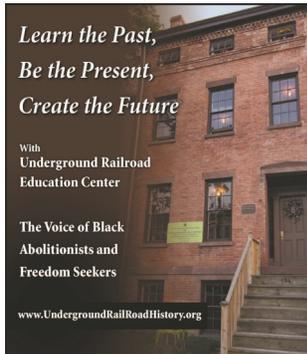
Catherine Brice, another refugee from southern enslavement, found work and a home in Albany. She wrote a letter of thanks to William Still, an Underground Railroad activist in Philadelphia, for his assistance in helping her make her way to Albany where she lived the rest of her life. Catherine, and so many others, we remember you as

One of the people of courage, people of hope, seekers of justice

James Bevel, John Lewis, Ralph Abernathy, Shirley Chisholm, Ralph Bunche, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Frederick Douglass Reese, Ella Baker and **James Reeb** fought for freedom in more recent times, some of them dying in the struggle. James, John, Ralph, Martin, Ralph, Abraham, Frederick, Jimmy and James, we remember you as ...

One of the people of courage, people of hope, seekers of justice

May these people who are remembered here speak to us in the present. May we be mindful of and responsive to their call to us to continue to work together for the liberty and justice promised to all in our nation's founding document. May we take on the mantle of civic responsibility and meaningfully participate in our communities as we engage the past with the present and look to the future with justice as our standard.



Closing remarks - offered by Paul and Mary Liz Stewart

Mission Statement - Underground Railroad Education Center researches and preserves the local and national history of the Underground Railroad movement, its international connections, and its legacy for today's social justice issues, thereby empowering people of all ages to be agents of change toward an equitable and just society.

You are invited to show your support for UREC by making a **donation** or becoming a **member** today - One-time and subscription options are available online at undergroundrailroadhistory.org/donate/ or via **postal mail** to UREC, 194 Livingston Ave, Albany NY 12210

*Thank you for joining in the 14th annual July 4th Oration.
Hope to see you again in 2023!*

www.UndergroundRailroadHistory.org



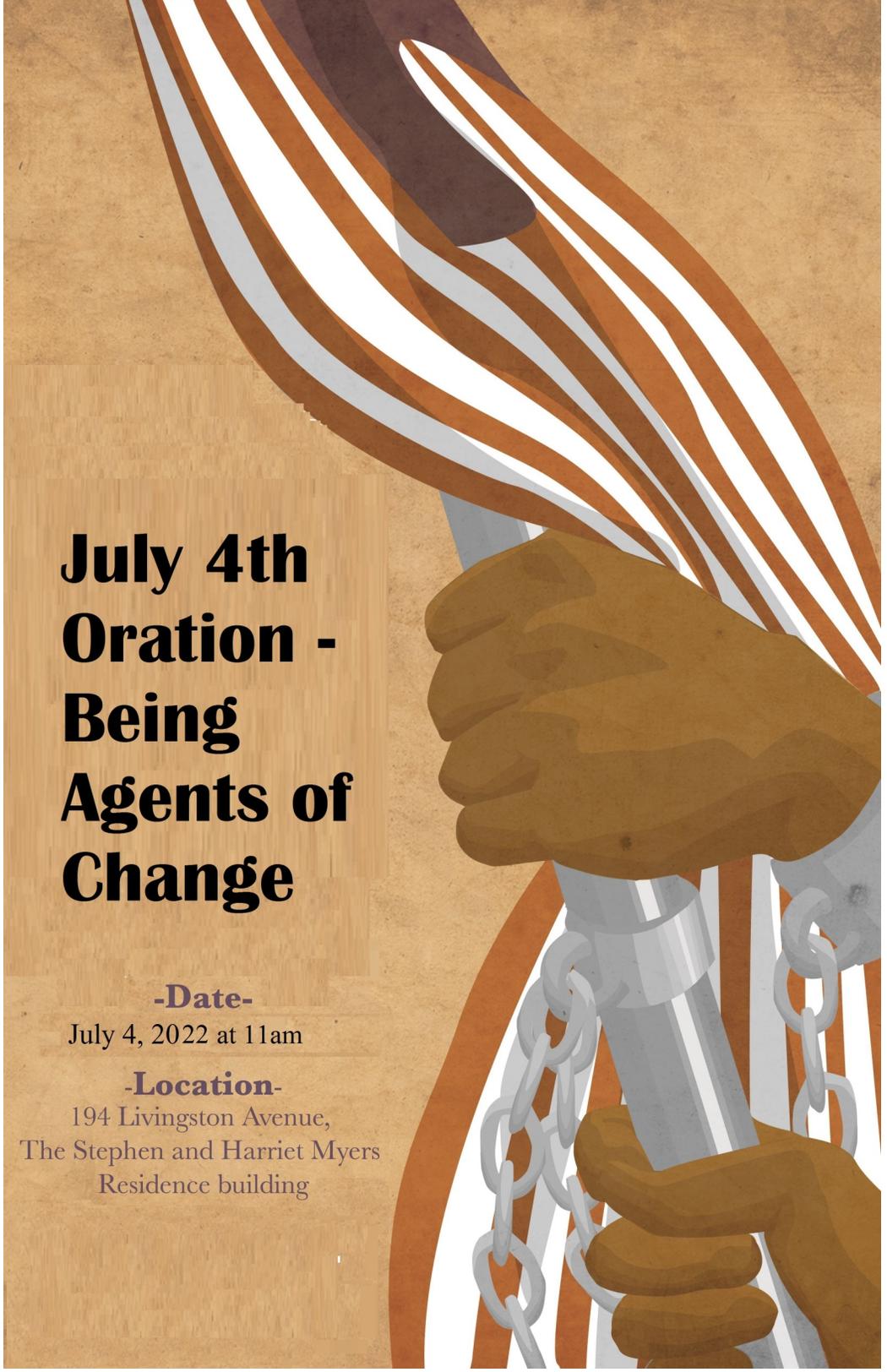
July 4th Oration - Being Agents of Change

-Date-

July 4, 2022 at 11am

-Location-

194 Livingston Avenue,
The Stephen and Harriet Myers
Residence building



What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July?

In 1852 Frederick Douglass challenged the rhetoric of America with the conditions of Africans in America at that time. Thought provoking questions about democracy and civic engagement, about equity and justice, are as relevant today as they were in 1852 when Douglass asked his audience, "What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July?"



Being Agents of Change

Just as our Black abolitionists and their allies worked tirelessly to abolish the institution of enslavement and ensure equity in health care, jobs, education, housing, and voting rights for free and freedom seekers, so too have activists across time stepped up and dedicated their lives

to working for equity and justice. On their shoulders we stand today as we, too, continue the freedom struggle. An exemplar among us who stands tall in the tradition of our communal ancestors as an agent of change is **Kamal Johnson, Mayor of Hudson.**

"Kamal Johnson reveals his moxie through his all-hands-on-deck approach to life and governance. Elected in 2019, he began his second term as Mayor of Hudson, New York earlier this year.

As a child, Mayor Johnson's family was directly impacted by poverty, addiction, and incarceration. These experiences inform his work as a community and youth advocate, and his vision for a city that is safe and equitable for all." (MainStreet Moxie, the podcast - <https://mainstreetmoxie.press>)

Join us in welcoming Mayor Kamal Johnson, an outstanding and inspiring example of a changemaker in our time.

"In our increasingly polarized society, the 19th century Underground Railroad movement and its abolition activists challenge us to publicly reflect and act upon the legacy of the institution of slavery in our contemporary times. "– P. Stewart

Program Schedule

Welcome Paul and Mary Liz Stewart, UREC Co-founders

Volunteer Recognition Paul Stewart

Bruce Johnson - A resourceful and dedicated volunteer, Bruce has helped bring to life the *Yours for the Oppressed, Harriet Myers* exhibit with his paper hanging skills, protected the back parlor ceiling with plastic sheeting, and painted on multiple occasions the restored back steps. Bruce is a skilled professional who has selflessly devoted his time and energy to improving and enhancing key aspects of UREC



Rosemary Nichols - Rosemary has been walking with UREC since its incorporation in 2003. A generous volunteer, she helped UREC file its incorporation papers with NYS, no easy tasks, and is currently applying her real estate lawyer knowledge and skills in support of property consolidation for the building of the Interpretive Center.



Introduction of Guest Speaker: Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Mayor of Albany

Guest Speaker Kamal Johnson, Mayor of Hudson, to be followed by Q & A

Litany of Remembrance Paul Stewart, UREC Co-founder

Join with us in honoring the courage and fortitude of those who escaped their enslavement, those whose lives ended in bondage, and those who dedicated their lives to the pursuit of justice in more recent times. Let us remember their names, their voices and their stories. Let us join together to honor them and be inspired by their courage and fortitude. (Volunteer readers will share the passages. We ask everyone to join the reader in responding with 'People of courage, people of hope, seekers of justice'.)

Stephen Myers, Harriet Myers, Dr. Thomas Elkins, and Martin Cross of Hudson dedicated their lives to working to help others to find the freedom they were denied. Their work inspires us today. Stephen and Harriet Myers. Dr. Thomas Elkins and Martin Cross, we remember each of you as

One of the people of courage, people of hope, seekers of justice