



LANDMARK SOCIETY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WALK THE WALK:

ENCOUNTERS WITH ROCHESTER'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN ANCESTORS

FREE PERFORMANCES DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ROCHESTER, NY January 12, 2012 — The turning points in the lives of Rochester's African American ancestors are brought to life at the 2012 performances of *Walk the Walk: Encounters with Rochester's African-American Ancestors* presented by The Landmark Society of Western New York this February.

"*Walk the Walk* is a performance that helps us put a human face on our history," said Cindy Boyer, Landmark Society Director of Public Programs. "People from history books come to life in the experiences at the performance – from the humor and high energy of Captain Sunfish, to the dignified determination of Austin Steward and Frederick Douglass, the strength - even in grief - of Anna Murray Douglass, the courage of Harriet Jacobs, and the pride and faith of George Brown."

Now in its 16th year, *Walk the Walk* is offered FREE during a single performance only – February 10 at 7 p.m. – at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 141 Adams Street in the Historic Corn Hill District. This setting is particularly noteworthy as Mt. Olivet Baptist was established in 1910 as the first African-American Baptist church in Rochester. African-American Women's service club, The Links, will provide a refreshment reception, and thanks to a generous sponsor, the performance is free to the public.

Additional performances of *Walk the Walk* for school children grades 3 and higher are scheduled for the mornings of Feb. 9 & 10 at the Hochstein School of Music and Dance. This historic building was the location of Frederick Douglass' funeral, and also stands on the site of an Underground Railroad station. Performances for school children include one-on-one chats and interaction between the student audience and the "Ancestors," and help educators bring to life the difficult decisions faced by these historical figures. Interested educators can contact Boyer at cboyer@landmarksociety.org.

The Landmark Society provides program materials for classroom use before and after the performance, including historic timelines, activity sheets on each Ancestor, and guidelines on

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appropriate audience etiquette for a live theatre setting. Post-event materials develop language arts and visual arts skills, as students choose from a variety of writing or illustration activities reflecting on their experiences. The activities help teachers meet NYS learning standards in language arts, social studies, and visual arts.

Started in 1996, *Walk the Walk* has become one of Rochester's premier Black History Month events, bringing to life some of Rochester's richest characters in an entertaining, engaging and educational theatrical production. The performance is a must-see for anyone who appreciates history, theatre and the ribbons of experience that tie all humans together.

About The Landmark Society: *In its 75th year, The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc. is one of the oldest and most active preservation organizations in America, serving nine Western New York counties. Formed in 1937, The Landmark Society continues to discover, protect, and revitalize the architectural and related cultural heritage of the Rochester region, and to educate and inform our community about that heritage. For additional information about The Landmark Society, visit www.landmarksociety.org.*