



October 23 & 24, 2009

**C. Walsh Theater at Suffolk University  
55 Temple Street, Boston, MA**

On **Friday evening, October 23rd**, the **Underground Railway Theater** will present a staged reading of a portion of *Harriet Jacobs*, a new play about the abolitionist, fugitive slave, and author. Following this performance, playwright **Lydia R. Diamond** of Boston University, Yale University historian **David Blight**, and Suffolk University dean **Kenneth S. Greenberg** will lead a discussion focusing on slave narratives and how to employ drama to communicate this history. This evening program will be free and open to the public.

- 7:00-7:15      **Welcome & Introduction**
- 7:15-8:00      **Reading from *Harriet Jacobs***
- 8:05-8:30      **Discussion**

On **Saturday, October 24th**, a symposium of scholars will address a variety of issues in the history of the anti-slavery movement, with time reserved for questions and comments. The topics to be covered are:

- Anti-slavery movement in Boston and Cambridge
- The role of Charles Sumner and the black and white abolitionist community
- Abolitionism in popular culture
- Women in the anti-slavery struggle
- The abolitionist movement during and after the Civil War
- Contemporary relevance of this history

**Sponsors:** African American Experience Fund/National Park Foundation; Boston African American National Historic Site; Boston College; Boston National Historical Park; Friends of the Longfellow House; Harvard University; Longfellow National Historic Site; Mass Humanities; National Park Service, Northeast Region; Primary Source; and Suffolk University.

## Symposium on Saturday, October 24, 2009

8:30-8:55     **Arrival and Registration**

9:00-9:10     **Welcome**

9:10-9:55     **Opening Keynote**

**James O. Horton**, George Washington University, and **Lois Horton**, George Mason University, will present an overview of the American anti-slavery movement with particular attention to people and groups in greater Boston. James and Lois Horton are the editors of *Slavery and Public History: The Tough Stuff of American Memory*, and the authors of *Slavery and the Making of America*, the companion book for the 2004 PBS series; *Hard Road to Freedom*, a Choice Outstanding Book for 2001; *In Hope of Liberty*; and *Black Bostonians*.

10:00-10:15   **Break**

10:15-11:00   **Charles Sumner and the Black & White Abolitionist Community**

**John Stauffer**, Harvard University, is author of *The Black Hearts of Men: Radical Abolitionists and the Transformation of Race*, which won the Frederick Douglass Prize and the Avery Craven Book Award. The last book he wrote is *GIANTS: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln*, which won the Iowa Authors award.

**Sandra Sandiford Young**, Boston College. Young's essay on John Brown Russwurm appeared in *Prophets of Protest: Reconsidering the History of American Abolitionism*. She is preparing a book-length study of Russwurm, a Jamaica-born editor whose anti-slavery advocacy led him to emigrate from the United States to Liberia.

11:00-11:30   **Q & A with all presenters from morning session**

11:30-12:30   **Lunch**

12:30-12:50   **Book Sales**

12:50-1:30     **Anti-Slavery Music** featuring the music of the Hutchinson Family Singers presented by **Scott Gac**, Trinity College, author of *Singing For Freedom: The Hutchinson Family Singers and the Nineteenth Century Culture of Antebellum Reform*, and **Deborah Anne Goss**, singer and historical performer who specializes in anti-slavery and women's rights songs.

1:35-2:20     **Abolitionism in Popular Culture**

**Sally Pierce**, Boston Athenaeum. Her publications include *Boston Lithography, 1825 –1880* (with Catharina Slautterback). In 2007, Pierce received a lifetime achievement award from the Victorian Society of America/New England Chapter.

**Christoph Irmischer**, Indiana University, Bloomington. Irmischer's publications include *Longfellow Redux*, selected as a Choice Outstanding Title for 2007, and *Public Poet, Private Man*, the companion book for a special exhibit on H. W. Longfellow's 200th anniversary at Harvard University's Houghton Library. He is now finishing a book on Longfellow's friend Louis Agassiz, to be published by the University of Virginia Press.

2:20-2:35 **Q & A with all presenters from early afternoon session**

2:35-2:50 **Break**

2:50-3:35 **Women in the Anti-Slavery Movement**

**Julie Roy Jeffrey**, Goucher College. Jeffrey's books include *Abolitionists Remember: Antislavery Autobiographies and the Unfinished Work of Emancipation* and *The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism: Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement*, which was awarded the Choice Award for Academic Book of Excellence. She also co-authored and co-edited *The American People: The History of a Nation and a Society*.

**Jean Fagan Yellin**, Pace University, is the author of *Harriet Jacobs: A Life*, which was awarded the MLA's William Saunders Scarborough Prize and the Frederick Douglass Prize, and *Women and Sisters: The Anti-Slavery Feminists in American Culture*. She edited two editions of Harriet Jacobs's 1861 slave narrative, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself*, and edited *The Harriet Jacobs Family Papers* (2 volumes and a CD-ROM).

3:35-3:50 **Q & A with presenters from mid-afternoon session**

3:50-4:20 **Closing Keynote**

**David Blight**, Yale University, will focus on what happened to the abolitionist movement during and after the Civil War with particular attention to the people and groups in greater Boston. Blight is the author of *A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom, Including Their Narratives of Emancipation* and *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*, winner of the Frederick Douglass Prize, the Lincoln Prize, and the Bancroft Prize.

4:20-5:00 **Remarks** on what this history means for today's society from **Zoe Trodd**, University of North Carolina, and **Rep. Byron Rushing**, Massachusetts House of Representatives. Trodd is editor of *American Protest Literature*, co-author of *Modern Slavery: The Secret World of 27 Million People*, and co-editor with John Stauffer of *Meteor of War: The John Brown Story*. **Rushing** is a former director of the Museum of African American History, where he began the restoration of the African Meeting House, the oldest black church building in the United States.

5:00-5:10 **Conclusion and Farewell**