



Celebrating the history of civil rights in Western New York, the Robert H. Jackson Center is proud to present:

Underground Railroad Tour for Educators

May 6, 2014

8:30-4:30

\$65

Participants receive lunch and Common Core teaching materials.

Registration: <http://www.eib.org/events/Erie1?event=26476>

Featuring:



Paul Finkelman
Distinguished Professor
of Law at Albany
Law School,
Visiting Distinguished
Professor at LSU



Denise Easterling
as "Queenie" an
Underground Railroad
Conductor



Hon. William M. Skretny
Chief United States District
Judge for the Western District
of New York



Jeffrey Bagley
Confidential Law
Clerk to Hon.
William M. Skretny

Sponsored by:



Conference Agenda

8:30 AM **Registration—Robert H. Jackson Federal Courthouse** 2 Niagara Square Buffalo, NY 14202
(picture ID required for entry)

9:00 AM **Robert H. Jackson Federal Courthouse**
Chief Judge William Skretny: Opening Remarks
Law Clerk Jeffrey Bagley: Brown v. BOE of Topeka at Age 60

10:15 AM **Load Bus**

10:45 AM stop at **Broderick Park**

Located at the foot of Ferry Street on the scenic Niagara River, a plaque in the park pays tribute to the men and women who crossed the water from that point to freedom in Canada

Queenie Rivers will tell us about the significance of the **Ferry Landing** and **Suspension Bridge**

The Suspension Bridge across the Niagara Gorge served as a point of crossing for many fugitives into Canada. Built in 1848 as a carriage and footbridge, the Suspension Bridge was rebuilt in two levels to incorporate rail traffic in 1855. This bridge became a magnet for freedom seekers, a crossing point that funneled hundreds and perhaps thousands of people from slavery to freedom. After 1855, people took the railroad—principally the New York Central Railroad from New York City, Albany, Syracuse, and Rochester or the Canandaigua Railroad from Elmira--directly across the Suspension Bridge. Harriet Tubman was the most famous person to travel from slavery to freedom at the Suspension Bridge. Her crossings included one with Joe Bailey, who escaped from slavery with Tubman and three others in November 1856.

11:45 AM **Michigan Baptist Church**

The Michigan Street Baptist Church has been a central part of the history and culture of the African American community in Buffalo for more than 150 years. It is one of the oldest properties in Buffalo continuously operated by African Americans. The building was erected in 1845 and became a legendary Underground Railroad station, providing sanctuary for hundreds of freedom seekers before they crossed the border to freedom in Canada. It was a central meeting place for abolitionists and anti-lynching activists. Over the years, Frederick Douglass, William Wells Brown, W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington each graced its sanctuary.

12:30 PM **Nash House**

The former residence of the Rev. J. Edward Nash, the pastor of the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church. Many of Rev. Nash's sermons and letters that are a crucial part of Buffalo's African-American community history were written here and are on display for viewing.

1:00 PM **Colored Musicians Club**

The Colored Musicians Club is the only remaining African American club of its kind in the US. In 1999, it was designated a historical preservation site. Currently, the Club is promoting historical research and the preservation of jazz in Buffalo

1:45 PM **Box lunch upstairs at the Colored Musicians Club –lunch –**

Smoked Turkey on Asiago Cheese Focaccia: Smoked Turkey Breast, lettuce, tomatoes and onions

Smoked Ham and Swiss on Rye: Smoked Ham, Swiss Cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and onions

Mediterranean Veggie on Tomato Basil Bread: Zesty Peppadew, peppers, feta cheese, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes and onion, and Cilantro Jalapeno hummus

All lunches include chips and a Chocolate Chip Cookie

2:45 PM **Professor Paul Finkelman - upstairs at the Colored Musicians Club**

Professor Finkelman is an expert in constitutional history and constitutional law, freedom of religion, the law of slavery, civil liberties and the American Civil War, and legal issues surrounding baseball. He has written extensively on Thomas Jefferson and on Abraham Lincoln. An expert on the Fugitive Slave Act, Professor Finkelman will be discussing the impact this law had on America.

4:00 PM Depart for group meeting spot

4:30 PM Approximate arrival at tour origin